

# Gay Community News

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TAKE THEIR  
FIERCE LOVE  
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## Houston police get a lesson in gay bashing

*Undercover cops get maced and attacked with a baseball bat after one hour on the job*

By Jacob Smith Yang

HOUSTON—To quell the recent uproar over an anti-gay ambush that left one man dead, undercover officers of the Houston Police Department (HPD) are taking to the streets, posing as gay men in a decoy program that started Aug. 2. HPD officers and their supervisors have been shocked at the volume and intensity of anti-gay violence they are experiencing—an aspect of Houston gay life that activists had been previously unable to convince them existed.

Called Operation Vice Versa, the decoy program has garnered national media attention. Many hail it as the innovative solution to Houston's anti-gay violence. Local activists, however, see it as a program of limited effectiveness in preventing anti-gay violence. "We all know anti-gay violence won't ultimately be stopped by police patrols," said Annise Parker, who represents lesbian and gay concerns as a member of the Houston Police Advisory Committee. "The best thing to come out of this is awareness by the police, the media, the city and religious leaders that anti-gay violence is an issue that Houston has to address," she told GCN.

### 'Ripe to happen'

According to Parker, Houston's gay community is largely concentrated in the Montrose, a residential area that contains many of the city's art galleries, ethnic restaurants, chic shops and gay bars. Many people familiar with Houston know the neighborhood as a gay residential area, and

Parker maintains that it is "the city's most racially and socially integrated neighborhood, where gay people and non-gays work very well together."

The Montrose's reputation as a gay enclave has made it a favorite territory of gay bashers over the years. According to ABC News, the HPD has received over 300 reports of violence in the Montrose this year alone.

The catalyst for recent police action occurred during the early hours of July 4. Three men were returning to their car from Heaven, a local gay bar, when two carloads of young men stopped to ask for directions to the bar. The three responded by giving directions, adding that they knew Heaven had closed for the evening. Using this information as proof that the three were gay, ten youths jumped from the cars and attacked the three men with pipes, boards studded with nails and at least one knife.

One of the three men was able to escape uninjured. Another suffered some injuries. The third, Paul Broussard, sustained abdominal stab wounds. He died at the hospital seven hours later.

"Initially, there was little coverage of about Broussard's murder, partially because of the holiday," said Parker. "I had heard about it, but when I talked to the survivors, they were very hesitant to discuss the murder, and really had only talked to the police. Also, the owners of Heaven hadn't even heard about it."

The frequency and history of anti-gay violence and murder in the Montrose were

such that the Broussard case might have soon faded from the public consciousness, as many others had. Yet, nine days later, more than 1000 Montrose residents assembled at a busy intersection to protest perceived inaction on the part of the HPD, specifically its statements denying that the murder was a hate crime. (See GCN, Vol. 19, No. 3.)

Robert Bridges, vice president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus, told GCN that there was one aspect of the Broussard case that made it unique and saved it from fading from the public eye. "It was the first gay-bashing homicide case where there were surviving witnesses to tell the story," he said. "In the past, single bodies have been found, presumably the victims of gay bashing but with no witnesses."

"Paul Broussard was very young, very attractive and a banker, and that was one aspect of people's interest [in the case]," added Ray Hill, a longtime Houston gay activist. "Somehow, the timing was just right in terms of a community reaction, and it really hit a nerve."

"Several incidents hit at about the same time, causing a spasm of outrage," said Parker of the community reaction. Just prior to the murder, there had been two hate-motivated murders committed—one against a Russian emigre and the other against a Latino man. "The level of anger was such that this was ripe to happen. Within a few days Ray Hill and Robert Bridges were able to create a media event out of this."

*Continued on page 6*

## AIDS redefined in 1992?

*If the CDC changes the criteria for an AIDS diagnosis as planned, activists fear women and other disempowered communities will be largely excluded*

By Dawn Schmitz

ATLANTA—The federal government will begin using a new definition of AIDS Jan. 1, a move that could more than double the official AIDS count in the U.S. While some AIDS activists have focused their criticism of the new definition on the fact that it doesn't include diseases specific to women, others have called into question the whole idea of access to services based solely upon immune system deficiency rather than the presence of debilitating diseases.

"Bush's CDC [Centers for Disease Control] has refused to expand the definition of AIDS to include the infections which are killing women," said Constance Mayer, member of Philadelphia's CRY OUT!/ACT UP, in a statement. "Without official diagnosis, women are denied government health benefits and don't receive health care until late in the disease."

The new definition, which has yet to be made official by the CDC, is based upon the presence of HIV and the level of certain infection-fighting cells—known as T-cells or T-4 cells—in a person's blood. Individuals with a T-cell count of less than 200 per cubic millimeter of blood would be considered to have AIDS, even if they display no symptoms.

The new definition will not replace the current one which, independent of T-cell count, relies upon seropositivity and the presence of at least one of 20 diseases to determine whether a person has AIDS. The new definition will add to the existing one, rather than replace it, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The CDC's decision was based upon a recommendation of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, a professional association, in a memo dated May of this year. The letter reads, in part, "...the usefulness of the current AIDS case definition in tracking the epidemic may diminish as therapy delays the onset of illnesses which are included in the AIDS case definition and as therapy changes the spectrum of illnesses associated with HIV disease."

AIDS activists charge, however, that HIV-positive women sometimes suffer from certain gynecological diseases or disorders even when their T-cell count is above 200. They are concerned that services be denied to women whose diseases do not fit the definition and that undercounting women with AIDS will result in the continued failure to study how AIDS affects women.

"It's a vicious circle—a Catch-22," said Belinda Rochelle, health issues lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), adding that without statistics and adequate information it is nearly impossible to get funding to do research. According to Rochelle, there has never been a complete case history of a woman with AIDS. "Women are just excluded and categorically omitted from the research data," she told GCN.

Many AIDS practitioners agree that more gynecological symptoms should have been included in the new AIDS definition. "I think it was short-sighted of them not to include these gynecological symptoms," said Lee Swislow, a registered nurse and clinical coordinator of AIDS programs at Cambridge Hospital in Cambridge, Mass. She said

*Continued on page 6*



## Quote of the week

"We have a responsibility to the other brothers in the community to accept healthy members. If there were a polio epidemic, we would screen for polio, too."

—Friar Bernard Kennedy, a vocational officer for the Franciscan Friars, commenting in the Boston Globe on an increasing number of Roman Catholic religious orders that require HIV testing for those who wish to become clergy.

## USSR pride draws 20,000—to organizers' surprise

MOSCOW—An estimated 20,000 people attended the first gay and lesbian pride events ever held in the Soviet Union, reports the *Philadelphia Gay News*. Symposiums, film festivals and political demonstrations—held in Moscow and Leningrad July 23-Aug. 3—drew numbers of Soviet gay men and lesbians far greater than U.S. and Soviet organizers of the event had expected.

"This is the first time in the history of our country when gay people have come together," said one Soviet participant. "It will do much to change the public attitude.... My parents and most people—well, I think everybody in the Soviet Union—think there are no gay people here. But now they will know."

A group of lesbians from Siberia staged an impromptu kiss-in in Moscow, to which traffic police responded by calling in 800 back-ups. Activists fled in tourist buses.

The Soviet Union's first planned gay rights demonstration was held the next day on the steps of Moscow's Bolshoi Theater. One focus of the event, which drew 200 demonstrators and 500 onlookers, was the repeal of a Russian Republic statute carrying a five-year prison term for those convicted of sex between men.

Activists also called for the Soviet government to enact a national AIDS program. While there are 654 official AIDS cases in the Soviet Union, this is an inaccurate estimate, government authorities concede. Activists staged condom-distribution events in both Moscow and Leningrad.

An estimated 16,000 people attended the Moscow film festival and 1000 participated in the Moscow symposium. Workshops there included such topics as gay culture, coming out, the gay press, anti-gay violence, Marxism, sodomy-law repeal and AIDS treatment.

—Dawn Schmitz

## U.S. reps condemn Mexican homophobia

WASHINGTON—Twenty-eight U.S. Representatives signed a letter to Mexico's ambassador July 31, decrying the homophobia of Guadalajara officials. The letter comes in the wake of anti-gay remarks and threats by Guadalajara's mayor and other local officials that resulted in the last-minute cancellation of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) world conference. (See *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 47.)

Reps. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.) and Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) drafted the letter to Gustavo Petricoli. It calls for the Mexican government to "review this situation" and "strongly condemn anti-gay bias."

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Transsexual sues LAPD for \$10M

LOS ANGELES—A male-to-female transsexual filed a \$10 million lawsuit on Aug. 1 in U.S. District Court against Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Daryl Gates, Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block and 200 unnamed law enforcement officers.

The suit alleges that two LAPD officers entered the apartment of Alfonso (Roasrio) Melgoza without warrant as she was preparing to take a bath.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the officers ordered Melgoza, who is in the process of a sex change, to stand nude in front of them and two acquaintances. After 10 or 15 minutes, they reportedly arrested Melgoza for stealing papers from an employer.

Benjamin Schonburn, Melgoza's attorney, said that one of the officers also fondled Melgoza, made "lewd comments" and sexually propositioned his client in the squad car. Although the employer later located the

missing papers, Melgoza was re-booked for failure to appear in court on an unrelated petty-theft charge.

The LAPD then turned Melgoza over to deputies of the sheriff's department, who allegedly conducted a strip search in front of 60 male inmates. Melgoza was then put in a cell with inmates who reportedly attempted to rape her as prison guards stood some 10 feet away.

Schonburn said that Melgoza's breast implant was injured and a tooth was knocked loose during the attempted rape. Melgoza said fear of police harassment stopped her from filing an official complaint at the time.

Gates and the LAPD have recently come under national public scrutiny following the release of videotaped footage of four LAPD officers severely beating Rodney King, a Black man. Moreover, gay and lesbian activists charge that Gates has been responsible for fostering homophobia and a disregard for lesbian and gay concerns during his LAPD tenure. Many have called for Gates' immediate resignation and for LAPD officers to be trained in issues affecting traditionally marginalized groups.

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Tories end lesbian/gay ban from diplomatic service

LONDON—Prime Minister John Major announced July 23 that the British government has overturned rules that automatically barred lesbians and gay men from diplomatic service.

Evidence of homosexuality had automatically disqualified candidates for security clearances needed in high level overseas posts. Major maintained, however, that a person's susceptibility to blackmail by foreign agents would continue to be a factor in determining whether a candidate should be allowed access to highly classified information.

According to *TWN*, a Florida gay newspaper, Major explained that, in lieu of an automatic ban on gay men and lesbians, these security issues will have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Major attributed the policy change to changing social attitudes in Britain and abroad, as well as greater openness on the part of lesbians and gay men about their sexuality, lifestyles and relationships.

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Dentist who denied services to HIV-positive patient guilty

NEW YORK—A dentist's refusal to provide services to an HIV-positive patient violated the city's human rights law, according to an Aug. 5 ruling by the chief administrative law judge of the New York Commission on Human Rights.

Rejecting the dentist's claim that he lacked adequate infection-control equipment and therefore had to turn away an HIV-positive patient, Judge Rosemarie Malonado stated that "the only rational option for dentists is to treat all patients as if they were potentially infectious and to apply universal infection-control procedures."

In Feb. 1987, the patient, John Campanella, visited the Manhattan offices of Dr. William Hurwitz for routine dental services. Prior to an examination, Campanella informed the dentist that he was HIV positive. After taking X-rays and examining Campanella, Hurwitz informed him that he needed a root canal treatment. Hurwitz then told him he would have to go elsewhere for the procedure ostensibly for lack of proper sterilization equipment.

Investigators determined that Hurwitz's office was equipped to maintain universal precautions. Campanella has since died.

The judge awarded \$7500 to Campanella's estate for mental anguish and ordered Hurwitz to stop turning patients away based on their HIV status. She also required Hurwitz to provide for the next two years the commission with a biannual list of all new and current patients he refuses to treat.

"The judge correctly held that trying to isolate and exclude people with HIV not only violates their rights, but puts everyone, patients and staff alike, at risk," said Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which represented Campanella. Wolfson praised the judge's decision, noting that it came during renewed national hysteria over HIV transmission.

Hurwitz had until Aug. 16, 1991 to comment on the judge's ruling. After that date, the decision would become final.

—Jacob Smith Yang

## When you care to ban the very best

LOS ANGELES—Gay and lesbian activists have issued a complaint against Hallmark Cards for banning the word "lesbian" from the computer vocabulary of a new "make-your-own" greeting card line.

Hallmark card shops began carrying the "Personalize It" program nationwide early this year. Customers use an in-shop computer to print a personal message on a card of their choice.

Charlotte Innes, outreach co-chair of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), said that several attempts to create cards for participants in San Diego's Gay and Lesbian Pride events and GLAAD ended in failure.

Innes told the *Vanguard*, a local gay and lesbian newspaper, that a survey of clerks at Hallmark stores in different locations had revealed that the word "lesbian" was intentionally eliminated as an option from Hallmark's "Personalize It" program.

Renee Hershey, Hallmark's media relations director, confirmed that the word had been deemed unacceptable for the program because it might be used "in a derogatory or insulting way." When asked why the word "gay" was included in the computer's vocabulary, Hershey pointed out that gay could also mean "happy or carefree."

Innes complained about the exclusion of the word "lesbian" to Hallmark's director of consumer affairs in a July 26 letter. "Not only are you censoring us out of existence, but you are also saying to be a lesbian is a bad thing."

Responding to the argument that the word "lesbian" was likely to be used as an insult, Innes said, "Many other neutral words can be used in a loaded way—Jews, WASPs, men, women, Christians, atheists, fat, skinny, short, tall—the list is endless."

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Sperm donor entitled to limited parental rights

WOODLAND, Calif.—A man who donated sperm for a lesbian couple to have a child may seek parental custody of their 16-month-old son, according to a ruling by a superior court judge.

The decision by Yolo County Judge James Stevens, Jr. does not establish visitation or custody rights, but allows Steve Wittman to continue his lawsuit against Andra and Mary Northup. Wittmann seeks parental recognition and joint custody of the child.

According to the *Washington Blade*, Wittman, then a friend of the couple, donated his sperm to both women during most of 1989 resulting in Andra Northup's pregnancy. She gave birth in March 1990.

Wittman's lawsuit charges the Northups were made aware from the beginning that "he wanted to play an active role in the boy's life." The couple's lawyer maintains that Wittman was "too late" in expressing his desire to assert parental rights. He filed his paternity suit six months after the child's birth.

"We made it clear it was our family," said Mary Northup. "I made it clear that he would have no financial or emotional involvement."

The recent ruling argues that the Northups "failed to meet the legal requirements for excluding Wittman" because the insemination process was not overseen by a licensed physician.

Mary Northup has said she and her lover may appeal the ruling. Earlier, the Northups' attorney had filed a motion seeking to have Stevens removed from the case because "he is not disposed to think of the family as being other than mother and father."

—Jacob Smith Yang

## Gay/lesbian groups join in opposing Thomas

WASHINGTON—Lesbian and gay groups are among the numerous civil rights organizations lining up to oppose the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. According to the *Washington Blade*, a gay newspaper, the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men issued a statement July 30 announcing its opposition to Thomas, a conservative African-American judge nominated by Pres. Bush to succeed retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Thomas, who served as head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Ronald Reagan, has been criticized widely by civil rights groups including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which announced its opposition to Thomas on July 31.

Civil rights groups charge in part that Thomas neglected to pursue class action suits, favoring instead individual discrimination cases. Thomas' "consistent opposition to group remedies for classes of people who have been historically discriminated against," the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays' statement reads, "make him an unacceptable nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court."

The Coalition also expressed deep concern that Thomas apparently has found no right to privacy in the Constitution, stating this "prevents him from acknowledging and protecting the interests of lesbians and gay men and a woman's right to a safe abortion." Countless women's rights and pro-choice organizations also oppose Thomas' nomination.

In addition to the Coalition, other gay and lesbian organizations who oppose the nomination are the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign Fund. The U.S. Senate, which has sole power to accept or reject a Supreme Court nominee, is expected to begin debate on Thomas' nomination in September.

—Dawn Schmitz

## NGLTF to promote breast cancer awareness among lesbians

WASHINGTON—The Breast Cancer Coalition, formed this year as a national advocacy group, received support from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) on July 26. According to the NGLTF, the two organizations will join to increase awareness of breast cancer among lesbians and advocate for greater response to it and other lesbian health concerns.

"Most women only visit a physician because of reproductive health needs," said Belinda Rochelle, NGLTF health issues lobbyist, in a statement. "For some lesbians that is not a concern and therefore they do not visit a doctor as often as they should. Some lesbians may only go to a doctor when they are sick, and unfortunately that might be too late."

The Breast Cancer Coalition is pressuring Blue Cross/Blue Shield to cover reimbursement for mammograms and breast cancer screening in asymptomatic women below the age of 50. "It is absolutely critical that all women, including lesbians, and regardless of age, have accessibility to screening coverage," Rochelle said. More than 25 percent of all women who are diagnosed with breast cancer are in their forties, according to American Cancer Society statistics.

The Coalition—which was formed in February of this year by cancer, women's health and grassroots women's groups—has among its goals the improvement of breast cancer research, care and access to screening.

—Dawn Schmitz

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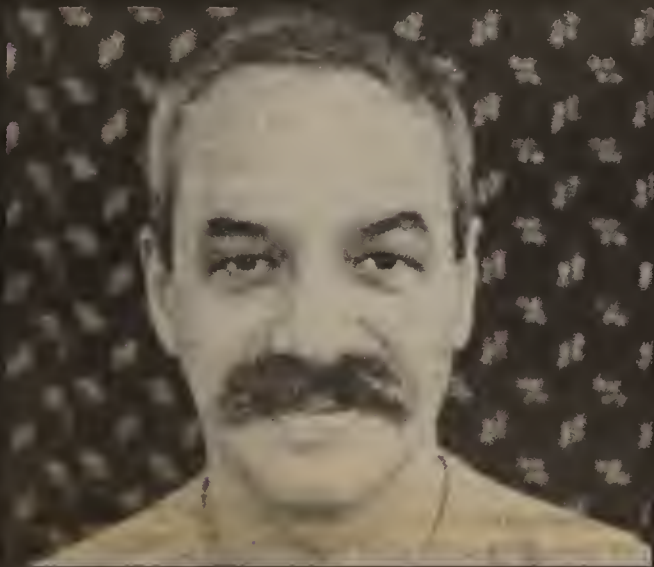
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# KEEP IT GOING

While the benefit at the ICA got us off to a great start, and donations have been generously flowing in, we're not out of the financial woods yet (See *GCN* v.19, no.2). Help us keep the momentum going by taking a few minutes to fill out the form below or call us at (617) 426-4469 if you'd like to volunteer some time.

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- Jonathan Ned Katz,  
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## THE SCOUT OATH

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(Note—Out of the past of the race has come only one oath which ranks with this Scout Oath of the young American citizen. That was the oath the young Athenian citizen took when he became 17 years of age.)



## Boy Scouts sidestep charges of homophobia

*Fear of funding loss over discriminatory policies causes youth group to invent separate organization*

By Jacob Smith Yang

SAN FRANCISCO—Facing the possibility of losing funding from the United Way/Bay Area (UW), the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced Aug. 12 that it will develop a school-based program for youths that will be open to all students. No change in home-based community programs is expected.

Gay activists here have voiced suspicion that the new program will segregate formerly excluded groups—gay males, young women and atheists. The new program is only a token gesture on the BSA's part, they charge, and the BSA leadership's uncompromising homophobia has yet to be addressed.

"The Boy Scout leaders have not compromised their homophobia," said John Woods of Queer Scouts, a special focus group of Queer Nation/San Francisco. "Nowhere in their proposal is the word 'gay' or 'homosexual' mentioned. They are just lumping all annoying 'undesirables' in one separate program, in an attempt to maintain their privileges."

Furthermore, activists claim the UW is backing away from a previous commitment to require the BSA to adhere to its non-discrimination policy.

"They [the BSA] are saying you can be a queer scout in name without actually being a scout," said Queer Scouts' Steve Koban. "This is just a ruse to get around the United Way's non-discrimination clause." Koban criticized the UW's support of the BSA's separate in-school program. "It seems like segregation to me," Koban told *GCN*.

### 'Little uniforms, patches'

According to John Stafford, vice president of community affairs at UW/Bay Area, the details of the newly proposed BSA "Learning for Life" program have not been developed.

"They'll have little uniforms, patches, merit badges and everything else," said Stafford. "It is specifically targeted for inner city kids and focuses on building self-esteem, making career choices and developing decision making skills."

Stafford said the new in-school program will be open to all students. "We're definitely applauding this move," said Stafford. "This is a sign that the Boy Scouts are not absolutely steadfast in hewing to their old line."

According to Queer Scouts' Woods, there is no specific reference to gay youths or previously excluded groups.

The new BSA proposal makes no mention of any change in the better known community-based programs, typically run out of people's homes. Similarly there is no change in BSA policy that bans gay men from becoming scout leaders or volunteers (see *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 45).

The UW will go forward with plans to form a task force addressing its reservations about the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policy, Stafford said.

John Woods of Queer Scouts told *GCN* that he was concerned for UW official's public endorsement of the program. "We felt their statements were too generous, given that the programs have yet to be examined in full and the United Way task force has yet to be formed."

Woods attended the July meeting of UW/Bay Area's board of directors, where 54 members voted unanimously to form the task

force and suspend a proposed \$9000 grant to the BSA. Since the "Learning for Life" program was proposed, Woods charges that the UW has said the BSA could reapply for the money.

"Unfortunately the \$9000 was funding for a BSA outreach program in Concord, California," said Stafford. "Suddenly the United Way was in a difficult position of withholding money from the Hispanic community, which went unsupported by the Boy Scouts for years, based on discrimination charges from another minority."

Stafford said the result was a kind of backlash from members of the community in Concord for whom the funds were targeted. He said that the UW instead channeled the funds to the community through a small grassroots organization.

Woods also expressed concern that the conflict between BSA leadership and anti-discrimination activists would negatively effect those who participate in Boy Scout programs. "It is too bad the Boy Scout leadership is so willing to toy with the funding of inner city youth projects just to stubbornly adhere to their homophobia."

Even if the UW does eventually cut BSA funding, says Stafford, "It is a lengthy process and it would take years to eliminate their funding completely."

Woods maintains that conservative UW donors have pressured the organization to back down from its investigation of BSA. He said one United Way official told him the organization stood to lose up to \$400,000 in contributions by conservative fundraisers.

If the United Way is swayed by such pressure, Woods said Queer Scouts would urge its allies on the United Way to issue a comparable threat to cease fundraising. Also, he said, Queer Scouts may protest the stalling tactics of UW board members by targeting their businesses for Queer Nation actions.

Blake Lewis, spokesperson for the BSA leadership in Irving, Texas, could not be reached to comment on the "Learning for Life" program as *GCN* went to print.

How "Learning for Life" will affect the San Francisco school board is unclear. Openly gay board vice president Tom Ammann has introduced a resolution that would ban the BSA from meeting in public schools, based on the school system's non-discrimination policy.

"The fact that they've created a second program that's school-based and has the Scout emblems attached to it and is open to girls or agnostics or atheists is nothing," said San Francisco supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, also a board member of the UW/Bay Area. "This is clearly a second class program. It doesn't capture the essence of scouting."

—filed from Boston

## 11. A SCOUT IS CLEAN

He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd.



## GCN JOBS

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### Safety in the clubs

Dear GCN:

I have been going to clubs in Boston for quite some time now. Clubs can get quite crowded, and with crowds can come rowdiness. However, I have never found this to be the case at any club since I have been out. I am sure this is due to excellent security personnel and their managers. This has been true, until I attended Venus De Milo on Wednesday, July 31.

I was standing near the dance floor with my roommate and a friend when all of a sudden a bottle came flying out of nowhere and crashed at our feet. Consequently, a piece of glass ricocheted from the crash and struck my right front tooth, causing a small chip. At that point, I was quite angry and wanted to leave immediately. I was quite shocked and didn't realize until later that the same piece of glass could have cut or damaged any part of my face, especially an eye. It is a miracle that neither of my friends were hurt.

My first instinct was to leave, but then I decided that I should probably mention this to the management and fill out some kind of accident report. I would have to go to the dentist and I certainly didn't want to pay for it. A security guard called for the manager. (I later found out that he was the only security guard on duty at this large establishment.) I explained what happened to the manager and he replied, "Well, what do you want me to do about it?" He had first said that he would throw out whoever threw the bottle. I said that I had no idea who threw it. I do not recall his apologizing, and if he did, I do not believe he is sorry. When I said that I wanted to fill out an accident report, he said that he didn't know what I was talking about and that they don't exist. He then took down my name and number on a piece of scrap paper and said that my complaint had been noted. I have not heard from him since.

I can't believe that there was only one security guard on duty in such a big place with so many people. I am really angry about the way the manager handled the situation. I am even more angry that the manager showed little concern for one of his patrons and I think that everyone has the right to know that Venus De Milo is possibly an unsafe place to go on Wednesday evenings. They have lost my patronage, and my respect.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Cohen  
Boston, Mass.

### GCN: post-modern and maahvelouss

Dear GCN:

GCN's new "postmodern" masthead logo and overall new look are a fresh, welcome change. The past few issues of the paper have been particularly attractive and I am sure many have taken note of these efforts at a difficult time for the paper economically. I hope readers will reward GCN by subscribing, becoming sustainers, volunteering and writing more than ever.

Many who support GCN and live in its orbit are poor. The collective tends therefore to give a lot more than it gets, often in little ways that go unnoticed. At this juncture point it is worth noting that as "P.C." comes under attack (though it was in the most radical places in the gay, lesbian and AIDS movements that the debate really started) and gay free market affluence became fashionable (and I say this as one who has argued for de-regulation and more free enterprise in AIDS research), that there is a find tradition among progressives and "liberals" who do activism and journalism on the "Left." Many would like to see this wither and die—just as they would like to see poor people wither and die (so as not to be messing up the sidewalks of gentrified neighborhoods).

Maybe we do need new ways of looking at things; maybe we do need less government in some places; maybe the Left has in many ways failed. *But GCN has not.* It is imperative, as very useful debate takes place as the movement begins to find a place in the Republican Party, that the best and the brightest voices on both sides—perhaps setting up "sides" is stupid—be heard.

Michael Bronski's analysis of homophobia in the publishing industry and more recent commentary on the Pee-wee debacle come to mind. So does the best front-page story on the Dahmer slayings I've read. Marketing analysts may say these in-depth articles are too complex, but this is the kind of journalism we need in an era of sound-byte politics.

GCN does need to shed some of its

cobwebs and welcome a new aura brought by young, bright people. Many of us who grew up as gay people have been reading GCN since we were in college some 15 years ago. We can easily fall into aesthetic and ideological ruts. As the gay/lesbian media marketplace becomes more competitive, it will be critical to find ways to compete that don't compromise quality or the fundamental commitment to decency that are the core of GCN. *But compete GCN must.* There are lots of vultures out there who would like to see the "dyke rag" go under—and the "henpecked" gay men with it. Having worked for a publication that tried like hell to incorporate lesbians and gay men, I know how intense the misogyny is out there. It *has* to be stood up to. (Besides, I enjoyed fighting like cats and dogs with the gay girls at NEXT.)

Good work speaks for itself. The good work of the past few issues is duly noted and would have been anyway; but the fresh look made it better because others who may be taking GCN for granted need to be jolted—yes, with the kind of gimmicks everybody uses to sell papers, like an eye-catching front page. "Relic of the sixties" can easily segue into "cutting edge of the nineties" if this spirit predominates. That continuity of commitment and quality are a must is a given.

I realize I am a shitty example of somebody who is supportive of GCN, having not gotten off my butt to do any serious writing (or Friday night stuffing) lately. But the little things are appreciated—a feeling of being welcome and cared about during some bleak times. During these bleak times for GCN's bank balance, please know that there are loyal fans who think the paper looks (and reads) just maahvelouss.

Remember: HIV is *not* the cause and AZT is *not* the cure.

With warmest best wishes,  
Steve Rose  
Boston, Mass.

### People should be free to choose

Dear GCN:

I have been a homosexual male since I was the age of 13. I was married for 17 years and have three children. It has been said that a gay person will raise their children to be gay, even if it is not done intentionally. My children are 27, 21 and 19 and none of them are into having sex with the same sex. They have known about my homosexuality since they were small children and it has not interfered with their own lifestyles.

I am now 47 years young, and it wasn't until I was 39 that I came out openly, to others and myself. What I do with others I do because I enjoy it, not because of heredity or being raised that way. I chose to be homosexual.

This is *America*, the land of the free. What has happened the freedom of choice in this country? What has happened to freedom of speech? If I choose to be a queer, that is my damn business. Sometimes I feel that this country only gives that freedom to those that are conformed to the government's way of thinking. I believe that the government should stop and look at what it is doing to this country. People are turning against each other because they are different.

I feel that many people that have given their lives in war have only done it in vain. They fought that we may be free. Free from what? No one can do what they want to. Sure, we can go to other places without a permit to travel, and we can do many other things that other countries do not allow their people to do, but are we allowed to be *what we want to be* without someone saying that we can't do that?

The government says that we need to find a cure for AIDS. They have the cure but will charge a fortune for the medication. The government sticks up only for their own people. I have read articles where a police officer is accused and convicted for a sex crime and then given only minor punishment. Just the other day I heard on the radio where, if a ball player is convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol he is given four days off. On the second conviction he will not be able to play a game for six times. What happened to jail time? A regular person who works hard for a living will have to do jail time.

Abraham Lincoln said that this government was for the people and by the people. Which people? All of America, or just those who make a name for themselves and those who work for government and state agencies?

People should be allowed to live the way they want to live. If I want to suck someone

## Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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(\* Indicates member of paid staff collective)

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off, that is my business and no one else's.

For any personal comments to me, please write the address below. I can receive mail from other prisoners, and look forward to letters from anyone in or out of prison.

GCN, I thank you for your newspaper and I share it with others here in prison who wish to read it. Please continue to keep up the excellent work that you have been doing. If there is something I can do for you while I am in prison, please let me know. I still have 10 years to go before seeing the free world again.

Sincerely and with love,  
Steve Freeman  
Box 1000 Unit 1-A  
AVCF  
Crowley, CO 81034

## I deserve a medal

Dear GCN:

I want a medal. I deserve one. I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder but I've never been to Vietnam. Yet I am a courageous hero. I survived child sexual assault. I'm going through everything war veterans with PTSD go through: Nightmares, flashbacks, fits, headaches, severe depression, extreme nervousness, etc. I've been through a war.

War veterans are decorated for their injuries; they get a Purple Heart. I'm wounded and disabled. I've survived 39 years of war. I've been fighting for my dignity, personal power, safety and freedom since infancy. I deserve an award—the highest one—for my heroism. I propose a Black Heart of Valor.

While I'm at it, I think I ought to be recognized for all my campaign battles; I want to be honored for *all* the sexual assaults I've endured. Instead of living in fear and harboring my secrets, I want to be able to point to campaign ribbons and say, "I survived being raped by my grandfather, molested by my grandmother, father and both brothers. Here are the three times strange men have exposed themselves to me, the two obscene phone callers, the time I was goosed by an employer." I could use a cluster of stars to illustrate how I survived the time my brother and his friends got drunk and assaulted me when I was 11. I could explain that each silver bar on my chest indicated a time when I was attacked and managed to talk, scream or fight my way out of being raped, there'd be five of those. And oak leaves (three of them) for each time I can remember when my brother tried to kill me.

I'm tired of being a faceless statistic. I'm not alone. I want to be believed. I want to informally indict each and everyone of my perpetrators without having to take them to court. Taking them to court isn't possible or safe. Some of these people are dead, some I don't or never have known; some are not safe to be in the same state with, much less the same courtroom.

I want to be acknowledged for my bravery. I want others like me to find the courage to step forward and break the silence that keeps us hidden, makes us feel so alone and isolated. I want a ceremony, too. I want all of us, women, children and men, to heal from the shame and devastation of our battles, fought, lost and endured.

Through honestly displaying our valor we can honor ourselves and our dead.

I wish this system of medals and ribbons could be available on a national level—sold by crisis centers and such as fund raisers. What a unique way to gather data on just how pervasive this problem is in this country. The numbers of survivors could be staggering, especially among men! Imagine what it would be like if men could *admit* that they had been assaulted; could overcome the stigma of loss of power and maleness. How healing this all might be.

I'm war veteran and I want to be decorated for it.

Artemis OakGrove  
Seattle, Wash.

## Lesbian invisibility?

Dear GCN:

Lesbians have been working for years in the lesbian/gay movement and the AIDS crisis and yet our issues and our voices are still ignored by the community, the general public but most of all by our gay male counterparts.

Nowhere does this seem so exemplified than at the largest lesbian/gay organization—the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Known for years as a white male

# Whose parade is it, anyway?

By Lori Nairne

[This is an open letter to San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee 1991 from Wages Due Lesbians.]

## Whose Parade?

We are writing to express our outrage at the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee's refusal to make space for grassroots unfunded groups, the rude and abusive treatment by "booth supervisors" at this year's Parade, and the police presence, both as participants and law enforcers. We are not surprised at the *Bay Times* article (July 1991) about charges of racism against the Parade board of directors and lack of accountability to people of color and low income groups generally. Each year, Wages Due Lesbians (WDL), a Black/of color and white lesbian's campaigning groups which is unfunded, has asked for the Parade Committee to address the need for sliding scale fees for booth space and to waive marching fees for grassroots unfunded organizations. This year it cost \$25 to march in a contingent, and \$100-\$200 for a non-profit, non-food sales booth. Every year, we are told that a sliding scale fee is not possible, that we have to pay the full amount. Since we can't afford to pay, we have always had to squat a booth space.

What we witnessed the morning of the parade this year was booth supervisors policing the area, demanding that groups who didn't have authorized booth space pay for the fee or leave. Parade Committee representatives absolutely refused to discuss sliding scale fees, were abusive and threatened to call in the police and have groups evicted. WDL set up a booth anyway, in spite of being made "illegal" because we couldn't pay. At 4 p.m. we were approached by a booth supervisor demanding to know who had authorized our table space. We protested that as a grassroots lesbian group organizing in SF since 1976 and involved in a variety of pride activities over the years we had a right to stay, and he left. We wonder how many other groups were harassed or excluded from full participation in Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day?

## Why police presence?

While grassroots organizations are being turned away from parade activities, this year

police participation was a major focal point and their presence was felt everywhere. The Chief of Police participated with a contingent of lesbian/gay police in uniform, they had a recruiting booth, and police worked with booth coordinators. This is despite ongoing protests about police brutality, in particular the 1989 Castro sweep. WDL supports the groups who protested the police presence on the march, especially in the light of the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles which we know happens daily in many cities throughout the U.S., including San Francisco. When the same police who harass and abuse us are honored and accepted as part of the lesbian and gay movement, Black/or color and immigrant people, some of whom are lesbian and gay, and everyone committed to anti-racism, and anti-sexism, are put down, threatened and excluded by their presence.

## What does the Parade stand for?

Some people seem to want Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day to be another gay profit-making business, while others want it to be a celebration of struggle, where people can get together and exchange information and experiences while we have a good time. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day began with the Stonewall riots in 1969, and Edmund White's eyewitness account of what happened makes it clear how it was a coming together of the Black movement of the '60s and the gay movement. It has taken many years of hard work by Black/of color and white lesbian women and gay men, and by other people in struggle, to win the right to march through the center of San Francisco and other cities in the U.S. We don't want that victory compromised or commercialized. The movement for lesbian and gay liberation is still going on—the Parade should be a place to renew our energy to continue, not pretend we've already arrived. We were told by our sister group in Philadelphia that in Washington D.C., participants were charged \$5 admittance to the booth/rally area. Is this in next year's plans for SF?

## What are the Parade's financial and other priorities?

Whose values shape the priorities for the Parade? If the Parade Committee is not accountable to the movement in deciding the

priorities of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day, how can it be accountable in making decisions on how to spend that money that is raised? What are the Parade's expenses? What happens to any profit? Balancing the budget at the expense of groups who were refused fee waivers and financial support is not the answer. In 1984, WDL had to battle with the committee to make childcare a priority at the march and succeeded despite much opposition. Grassroots lesbian women's groups who can't afford to march or pay for a booth are made invisible—this amounts to censorship of issues we want to publicize. Refusing invisibility and censorship in the Parade is part of the ongoing battle to get white gay men to take lesbian women's priorities seriously, particularly if we are also Black/of color/working class/mothers/with disabilities/older...

## Who is the Parade Committee accountable to?

Over the past few years Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day has become less and less political on the grounds that the Parade should have a broad appeal and a lot of people just want to have a fun day out. But what is "broad" and "fun" for some excludes others. Many lesbians don't want to and cannot afford to disconnect the Parade from our daily lives where we are up against poverty, racism, overwork, sexual repression, verbal and physical attacks, exploitation. The day has often been used as a way of publicizing issues that are important to lesbians and gay men as well as making visible our connection with other working class people. The Parade doesn't have to be a carnival at the expense of politics—it can be both.

## Where do we go from here?

The lesbian and gay movement must decide whether the Parade is for celebrating how far we've come as we further our struggle for liberation, or whether it is going to be just another profit-making industry, supporting lesbian and gay careerism and becoming part of the Establishment (albeit a pink one!)

Power to the sisters.

*Wages Due Lesbians is based in San Francisco.*

organization, apparently about two years ago the HRCF hired a lesbian director to implement a lesbian agenda into the HRCF's work.

When she quit in the fall of 1990, the HRCF never hired anyone to fill that position. We understand it has gone vacant for a full year. The HRCF owes the lesbian community some answers on what is happening.

Did the lesbian director implement a lesbian agenda so completely that the job is no longer necessary? If so we're dying to know about our monumental gains and why the position is no longer needed. Perhaps, the HRCF decided it didn't want a lesbian agenda after they saw it would require them to change.

Who makes the decisions at the HRCF and why are they leaving this position vacant? Are they all white men?

The HRCF needs to be accountable to the lesbians in our movement and answer the question why they haven't filled this position and demonstrate if they really care about representing lesbians.

Concerned Lesbians Interested in Truth  
(CLIT)  
Queens, N.Y.

## In defense of Gertner

Dear GCN:

The August 4 Newsnotes item on Nancy Gertner's appearance at a Civil Liberties Union forum was a dubious piece of reporting at best, incomplete and inaccurate. I feel compelled not to defend Nancy—she is more than capable of doing that herself—but to correct what I feel is a gross distortion of the facts.

The story states that Nancy "tried a case earlier this year which resulted in the weakening of Massachusetts's rape shield law." She did not "try" the case, as was reported, but represented the defendant on appeal. As she stated at the forum and *GCN* failed to report, Nancy has never "tried" a rape case because she has always refused to

represent men accused of rape. She took this particular case on appeal because she was convinced the the young man who was convicted was innocent.

The story extensively quotes the women who accuse Nancy of undermining the rights of rape victims, but her lengthy discussion and explanation of the case were all but ignored by the reporter. The story also fails to mention the very large number of women who turned out for this forum, many to hear Nancy speak. Anyone reading this story who had never heard of Nancy Gertner surely came away thinking she was some "alleged feminist," unconcerned with the consequences of her actions; they would have no idea that as a legal advocate Nancy has probably done more to protect and expand the rights of women than any other attorney in New England.

As for the case itself, Nancy explained that she represented the defendant because she felt his conviction was a great injustice. The result of her appeal was clearly not what she had asked the court for—very unfortunate, but something that any attorney has no control over. To say that she "should have known" is ridiculous. Courts nearly always construe the law as narrowly as possible; no one could possibly predict that the court would take the very unusual step of going far beyond the scope of the facts in the case presented.

Although it may be difficult for some of us to admit, innocent men can be and sometimes are accused of rape, and it appears that Nancy's client may have been one of them. It may be that in correcting an injustice the Court has created another potential injustice, and that is tragic. But the conviction of an innocent person is also tragic.

The story should have been identified as a press release rather than a news story. I hope *GCN* will do a better job of covering such issues in the future.

Jan Platner  
Boston, Mass.

SUB  
SCR  
IBE

TURN TO THE  
BACK PAGE  
AND FILL OUT  
THE EASY TO  
USE FORM.





Ray Hill

## Bashing

Continued from page 1

"A community organizer got in touch with me after the Broussard murder, wanting help in pressuring police to launch a sting operation against prostitutes and drug dealers," said Ray Hill. "I joined their call for that, but argued that hate-motivated criminals should be targeted as well."

Historically, Hill said that the HPD has had a very poor record of dealing with the needs and concerns of the gay community. Yet he conceded that it was the police who subsequently came up with the idea of sending undercover cops to Montrose, in an attempt to apprehend gay bashers.

"They certainly didn't do it out of the kindness of their hearts," said Bridges, regarding police motivation. "We had been working closely with them for months, trying to get them to compile hate-crimes statistics. They had been dragging their feet, but after the fall out from the Broussard case there was intense political pressure to do something. It is the mayor's election year, and city violence is the number one issue."

According to Bridges, Operation Vice Versa was supposed to be a secret. Initially, even gay activists had not been informed of just how the program would run. Then the *Houston Post* broke the story of two officers being sprayed with mace and being another attacked with a baseball bat within the first hour of the operation.

"The department was flabbergasted," said Bridges. "My understanding is they were going to run the program for 30 days, hoping to document just one case. I don't know if they think we were crying wolf or just a bunch of whiners or what."

According to Lt. George Buenik of the HPD, there were five or six incidents involving violence against the police decoys, and 14 people were arrested after the first two weeks of the program. He said that the program is running seven days a week, with the majority of assaults occurring between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Hill doubts that the HPD will be able to financially sustain Operation Vice Versa very long, and he has begun organizing neighborhood patrols to step in once the undercover police leave.

"This was set up as a short-term project all along," said Parker. "I believe they thought not much would happen, and now they will have to try to decide what to do now that they see the problem's magnitude."

Parker told of how one officer who was maced was later ridiculed by co-workers for having to hold hands with his partner as part of the operation. He reported that some of the comments he received in the station locker room would have been grounds for an arrest on his Montrose beat.

"What this has been is a great tool for officer sensitivity training," said Parker.

Hill concurs that an unanticipated benefit of making rank-and-file HPD officers realize the hazards gay men and lesbians face may be the most effective part of the program. "Any changes that occur within the police department have to occur from the bottom up, not the other way around." According to Hill, the police engaged in a particularly brutal raid—which he characterized as an "up against the wall, motherfucker" operation—of a gay bar on Aug. 14. "It is very indicative that while some areas of the police department are softening an anti-gay stance, others are attempting to create incidents and circumstance that would resist that."

Parker agrees that homophobic elements in the police department may be resisting a move towards working with Houston's gay community. "There's a long way the department could go, but we have come a long way in getting the police department to come to us," said Parker. "The next step will be getting police sensitivity training implemented and some openly gay and lesbian officers on the force."

—filed from Boston

## CDC

Continued from page 1

cervical cancer and recurrent vaginal thrush are both strongly linked to the presence of HIV in women, and that intractable pelvic inflammatory disease is also linked.

Swislow questioned the use of the new AIDS definition, as well as the old one, for the purposes of determining eligibility for disability income. She said both definitions count people who are not disabled and omit many who are. She said she would like to see all women who have debilitating illnesses qualify for such programs, and not have their qualifications based upon T-cell count.

Louise Rice, a nurse and health educator at the Massachusetts AIDS Action Committee, echoed Swislow's comments, saying, "The whole issue of inclusion [in disability programs] should be based upon illness." She said that disability programs automatically accept people with AIDS, while making it harder for those without the diagnosis to obtain the income.

Rice said that as far as a definition of AIDS is concerned, "the real issue is how many people have HIV."

A positive aspect of the new AIDS definition, she said, is that "HIV as a problem will be much more recognized" because the number of official PWAs will double.

She stated, "Many more women than men don't know they're infected," adding that in a New York study, "40 percent of women who were HIV positive didn't know of any risk factor in their background." She said this illuminates the pressing problem that, as a whole, women are much less likely to get tested for HIV than men are.

On the question of adding specific gynecological illnesses to the CDC's definition, she said, "I don't agree with that because I think those illnesses should be recognized as disabling on their own." She said that while cervical cancer is found at a higher rate for women who are HIV-positive, women who have the disease but aren't seropositive should also have access to services.

Rice said that she is not in favor of expanding the definition of AIDS by continuously adding symptoms, because many PWAs will be left out due to their particular symptomologies. Those who get left out, she says, will be the most disempowered in society.

"I'm against [the CDC] going through different steps and naming them," Rice said. "We could go through this incredible process and leave some people out." She named homeless people, malnourished people and IV drug users as three groups of people who are susceptible to certain kinds of infections that could escape being documented.

"I want an accurate definition for everyone," said the NGLTF's Rochelle. "We have the medical capabilities to let everyone be counted.... I'm not for limiting the definition. It needs to be more inclusive."

Rochelle said she was also concerned about an AIDS definition relying upon a T-cell count because women and others without access to good health care may not be able to get an accurate blood test to determine such a factor.

The process by which the CDC came up with a new definition was also questioned by Rochelle. She said that, in contrast to the hearings and meetings the CDC organized to come to a conclusion about mandatory testing of health care workers (see *GCN*, Vol. 19, No. 2), this decision was made with very little input from the community.

According to Rochelle, she and other AIDS activists—as well as health care practitioners who work closely with women who have AIDS—pressured the CDC to include gynecological symptoms in its definition. "I think the CDC took into consideration the economical impact" of increasing the visibility of women with AIDS, she said, adding, "and that's not their role or responsibility." A CDC spokesperson had no comment on the procedure used to determine a new definition.

Bill Hileman of Philadelphia's CRY OUT!/ACT UP said including gynecological symptoms in the definition of AIDS would have an impact on women beyond helping them gain access to disability income. He said defining more women as PWAs would give them access to programs in many states that provide AIDS treatment drugs at no cost to people of low income.

—filed from Boston

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Pomo Afro Homos

## Pomo Afro Homos on the road

*Fierce Love* explores black gay life

By Marilee BonaDea

Black gay men need a platform and *Fierce Love* is helping us get it," says Brian Freeman, member of the theatrical troupe that calls itself the Pomo Afro Homos. Freeman, along with his cohorts in Pomo Afro Homo-hood, Bernard Branner and Eric Gupton, have gotten their act together in a theatrical piece called *Fierce Love*, and they're taking it on the road.

*Fierce Love* originated when the three actors came together to discuss the possibility of putting on a show. The more they talked, the more they realized they were burning with hot ideas. Freeman reflects, "We had so many things to talk about. Branner is the one who knew it would all work."

The three brought a wealth of talent and experience to the undertaking. Freeman, who directed *Fierce Love*, is an eight-year veteran of the San Francisco Mime Troupe and was associate producer of Marlon Riggs's

groundbreaking video *Tongues Untied*. Branner, who choreographed *Fierce Love*, is the artistic director of the Flesh and Spirit Performance Company. Gupton, who wrote original music for *Fierce Love*, also performs with Flesh and Spirit.

After a month of writing and another month for rehearsals and re-writes, the three planned a one-night-only performance billed as a work in progress at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint in San Francisco. Although that one night was a sell-out, the Pomo Afro Homos were not prepared for the overwhelming response the performance received. The one-night-only show ran for five months, before the group decided to take it out on the road for a tour. The first stop on the tour was at the Alice B. Theater in Seattle, which is where I saw *Fierce Love*.

The show opens and closes with an original gospel number called "We Are," that

*Continued on page 9*

## It's the end of the year as we know it

Catching up on that heap o' women's music recordings

**E**ditor's note: The following is the conclusion of Caroline Foty's 1990 women's music roundup. With this installment of her semi-regular column, *GCN* finally publishes the last of Ms. Foty's reviews of women's music released last year. Consider this our bid to be the first publication to start the 1990 nostalgia/revival: Ah, what a year it was! Also, consider this our apology for taking so long to get these reviews into print. We look forward to getting back to the future soon.

Reviewed by Caroline Foty

Tret Fure, *Time Turns the Moon* (Second Wave)

Tret Fure seems to have done some thinking lately. Her previous recordings were pleasant and somewhat superficial; her lyrics were strings of short, disconnected phrases; and her attempts to be serious felt self-conscious. "Tight Black Jeans" was her trademark song. But there are moments on *Time Turns the Moon* that made me think of the word "maturity" (which I hesitate to use about someone who has been a musician longer than I've been a reviewer).

In its best moments, the album shows that Fure has an ability to express some ideas through the rhythms and momentum of popular music. "The Working Poor," for example, is one of the most earnest songs on the recording, but it has a good melody and it rocks with a compelling energy. The irreverent "The Girls All Dance" proposes a world of women where one would least expect it:

One hot senior prom  
Walking to the gym with a boy by your side  
The girls all check out each other  
The boys all work on their late night lies  
With the lights all turned down low  
The beat is up and the mood's romance  
But the boys all stand in a circle  
And the girls they dance  
The girls all dance  
The girls all dance  
The girls all dance with each other  
The girls all dance  
The girls all dress for each other



Libana

The girls all dance  
The girls all talk to each other while the boys all watch  
Dress for each other while the boys all watch  
Dance with each other while the boys watch the girls all dance

"Against the Grain" is a sweet ballad of love for the abused earth:

Who will feed the soil?  
Who will feed the soil  
That washes with the rain  
Will we tend the earth  
Somehow it seems to go against the grain...  
Who will feed the soil  
That washes with the rain  
Will we bless the earth  
Somehow I think it goes against the grain.

Certainly due to be a classic is the lovely "Hold Me To Your Heart." The song has the ring of certain classics by Cris Williamson. The refrain has a sweeping melody, and some simple but effective modulations give it uplifting momentum.

*Continued on page 10*

## Organizing gay men and lesbians in Peru

An interview with the executive director of the Homosexual Movement of Lima

By Lucien Chauvin

**R**ebbecca Sevilla is the executive director of the Homosexual Movement of Lima (MHOL), the only recognized gay and lesbian organization in Peru. In her two years as executive director, Sevilla has guided the group through a period of rapid growth and record accomplishments. Currently some 500 people participate in monthly MHOL-sponsored seminars, workshops and social events. Recently, Sevilla talked about the challenges MHOL and Peru's lesbians and gay men face each day.

As one of the founders of MHOL, could you give a history of the group?

MHOL-Peru was established in 1985. The group, however, was reorganized in 1989 and we changed the name to the Homosexual Movement of Lima. It was a big step for the group to use the word "homosexual" in its official title.

My relation with the organization goes back to October 1986; I was one of a handful of women involved in the original gay and lesbian organization. The recent history of MHOL is very much related to my personal development and the development of a group of lesbians and gay men who wanted to establish an organization with a very public and political agenda.

What brought about the need for the reorganization?

The original idea behind MHOL was to establish a gay organization for men and women, but it was generally all men. We wanted to create an organization that cut across gender, class and age barriers. Looking at the people who participate in our programs, I think we achieved this goal.

We also decided to reorganize MHOL because the political situation and the lack of respect for basic human rights in Peru demanded a more concrete and open response.

In 1989, groups such as transvestites became the victims—not of threats and abuse—but assassinations in the emergency zones in Lima itself. In late 1989, more than 30 transvestites were killed in the Lima area. The first reports of overt political violence against homosexuals appeared in May 1990. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) killed seven homosexuals in Tarapoto. We know of other threats or pressures on homosexuals in the zones controlled by the Shining Path. In these areas the people, whether they are prostitutes, drug addicts or homosexuals, are forced to change their lifestyle or be killed.

The rising level of violence in Peru based on sexual orientation forced us to re-evaluate our work. Homosexuals were being killed and no one was doing or saying anything. We would inform the media of violations and nothing would be done. We took the silence to mean that our society did not care if homosexuals, prostitutes or drug addicts were killed.

The pressures for a more political agenda, however, caused a great deal of internal conflict. Because of the repressive climate in the country it was very difficult for some members to come to terms with their homosexuality. Despite the problems within the group, we reorganized so that MHOL would be capable of openly calling for respect of the rights of gay and lesbian people as well as human rights in general.

How do you see the current situation in Peru for gay and lesbian people?

I think that the situation for lesbians and gay men in Peru has changed very little in the past few years. Although the availability of information and the visibility of the homosexual community have changed very little, there has been an improvement. There is a basic level of awareness about MHOL and the programs and services we offer in our office.

Services such as MHOL's Documentation Center offer lesbians and gay men access to a wealth of information on homosexuality and the gay movement worldwide. In the past year the Documentation Center has also been used extensively by college students and researchers. We see this as a very positive step because we are offering information that is not found anywhere else in Peru and, at the same time, helping people to better understand homosexuality, sexuality and themselves.

How have the media reacted to MHOL?

Unfortunately, Peruvian journalists are not very ethical and the media are not based on ethical principles. Homosexuality in Peru, as in many other pages, has always been relegated to the "red page" and most likely will never leave there. In Lima, both sex and sexuality have become poles of attraction for yellow journalism. There is an abuse of the topic and an abuse of the image of women and homosexuals in the media.

In the press, the image of the homosexual is associated with transvestites and prostitutes or with drugs and AIDS. Scandalous articles involving homosexuals are also used as tools to sell more papers.

If anything happens in Lima that involves homosexuals, the press almost always ties it in some way to MHOL. There have been false reports about the kidnapping of MHOL's leaders, about MHOL asking the city to privatize a beach especially for gays and lesbians.

One of the most alarming aspects is the abuse of people with AIDS in the media. AIDS cases are reported in such a way that the individual's most basic rights are abused. Instead of looking to inform people about AIDS, the media have added to all the myths that surround the disease and as a result have contributed to discrimination of people with AIDS.

Recently, we organized a campaign to hand out condoms and information on the AIDS-prevention services offered by MHOL. We called a press conference to kick off the event. The press conference was covered by nearly every large television station and newspaper in Lima. The interesting thing, however, is not one carried the same story. The number of people ranged from 10 to 10,000 and the event was called everything from a gay rally to a homosexual march through the center of Lima.

I believe the different versions reflect an attitude of trying to "demonize" homosexuality. They did not want to present MHOL as an organization that is contributing to the good of the community.

I don't want to only point out the negative aspects of MHOL's relationship with the press. Magazine articles and radio and television interviews have greatly increased our visibility. Currently, any journalist who wants to seriously discuss sexuality contracts MHOL for our opinions. Enrique Bossio (MHOL's secretary) and I, for example, just finished taping a segment for *Good Morning, Peru*, one of the most widely viewed morning programs.

In a recent survey on sexuality in the monthly magazine *Debate*, only seven percent responded that homosexuality was a "legitimate option," the majority classified it as something "abnormal," an "illness" or an "aberration." How does this play into the work of MHOL?

In reviewing the survey, I actually believe that it is positive in comparison to a similar one done by the same magazine five years ago.

The earlier survey was taken among the university population and only one percent of those responding stated that they had had a homosexual experience. The recent survey was taken in the general population and the fact that seven percent responded favorably or believe that homosexuality is a legitimate option appears to be a big advance.

I see a sort of polarization in our society in relation to concrete positions on homosexuality and sexuality in general. I believe that behind the affirmations that homosexuality is an aberration or an illness is a rising level of moralism that, to a large extent, is being pushed by the Catholic Church.

In a country like Peru, where having something to eat is a luxury for some 10 million people, the Catholic Church could have a positive impact. Instead, the hierarchy appears to be getting increasingly conservative and attempting to impose a new morality. If the church does not change, I believe that in the future—I'm not sure when—it will simply collapse and fade into history.

I am an optimist, however, and in spite of everything, I think having seven percent express that homosexuality is a legitimate option is very positive.

In the midst of this rising level of

*Continued on page 9*







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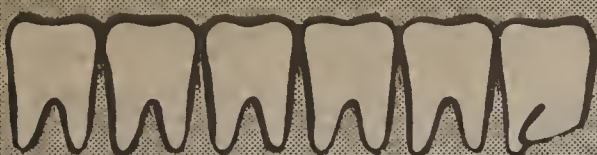
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## Peru

Continued from page 7

moralism and in a country plagued by so many crises, how do you see the future for Peru's gay and lesbian community?

I think the situation in the country will continue to get worse and will present greater challenges to gay men and lesbians. For the past 11 years, Peru has been fighting a civil war that has taken more than 20,000 lives. In addition to political violence, the economy continues to deteriorate, making even simple things our of reach for most people. With an average monthly salary of \$40, people just can't survive. For MHOL, for example, a long distance phone call costs six dollars a minute and mailing a letter almost two dollars—our budget cannot keep pace with an inflation rate that was more than 7000 percent in 1990.

Death is very real in Peru and each day survival gets a bit more difficult for many people. For many gay men and lesbians, societal and family rejections adds to the crisis.

I believe that the only way to improve the situation for lesbian and gay men is to work for a society that is more just. We must begin with the family and attempt to make parents and brothers and sisters understand that being gay or lesbian is not an evil thing.

We must also find a way to end the war and pacify the country in a manner that is democratic and just for the majority of Peruvians. Democracy must include the participation of minorities and opportunities for everyone to demand their rights.

I do not think that we'll be able to leave behind this sea of problems with laws that continue to be discriminatory. A dignified life can only be achieved by fighting for better living conditions and new openings for all Peruvians. □

## Fierce

Continued from page 7

touches on the multi-faceted experiences of Black life. The 11 scenes bracketed by "We Are" expand on this theme. The performers explore being gay in the Black community and being Black in the gay community.

In a piece called "I don't want to hear it," a married gay man goes out a couple nights a week to take care of his business. He has an "understanding" with his wife and definitely doesn't want anything to do with gay life.

"Visitation" takes place in the Roxbury section of Boston—hometown of Freeman and Gupton—and features a character who is a college student carrying a lot of cultural baggage. In the end he makes a transition from the Black Student Union to the Gay Student Union with the comment, "That's a Black thing you wouldn't understand."

"Good Hands" explores erotica and safe sex in the Black gay community. The piece, featuring Gupton, involves a backroom sexual encounter. "Red Bandanas" is another scene that deals with sex that also explores racism. The piece features a rap song that plays on coded sexual signals. Overall, the entire production runs like a well-tuned variety show.

"We live it so we know it," Freeman says of the group's ability to bring parts of Black gay experience to life on stage. "Some of the scenes are rooted in our lives, while others are just Black gay life." When he came out at age 18 in Roxbury, he adds, "it was lonely being gay and Black." Upon first coming out, Freeman knew only a handful of openly gay Black men, but he believes that the AIDS epidemic has somewhat forced the gay issue into the open in the broader African-American community. To that end, it seems like an opportune cultural moment to artistically explore the myriad issues facing Black gay people. The positive responses from *Fierce Love's* audiences supports this idea.

"Predominantly white audiences have a different response to *Fierce Love*," says Freeman, who is interested in exposing as many cross sections of the gay and Black communities as possible to the show. But this desire has faced an uphill battle. The Pomo Afro Homos were turned down by the National Black Theater Festival this year. And of course, funding for artwork that speaks to the lives of Black and queer people is another obstacle. Predictably, the group was denied funding by the National Endowment of the Arts. "It's hard now," Freeman says. "The NEA, state and city budgets are messed up and it's the small artists like us that are the ones getting shorted."

Still, the Pomo Afro Homos proceed with their plans undaunted. The show had a July booking in Santa Monica, Calif., is scheduled to be performed at Chicago's Randolph Street Gallery in September, with a stop in the Big Apple planned for October. The group would also like to bring *Fierce Love* to Philadelphia, Minneapolis and

Atlanta, while Freeman and Gupton expressed the hope that they will be able to perform the show in their native Boston. For them, it would bring the *Fierce Love* experience full circle; for audiences it would be a chance to see an important theatrical work. □

## Vidal

Continued from page 8

insider, and as a result was brought up—this is a metaphor that recurs—backstage. He points out that his contemporary, the Mesopotamian, himself the grandson of a senator, grew up in similar circumstances. Bush parlayed that background to the absolute conventional limit; Vidal didn't. Instead, writing his first publishing novel at 19 and not bothering with college, he "drifted off into the vision thing," which included his second book, *The City And The Pillar*, one of the very first novels with unapologetic gay themes to be published by a major American house.

The future president, on the other hand, was busy scrambling up, up, up the old boy ladder. Meantime, both men benefited from an insight that backstage kids learn early: mainstream politics really *is* a show. It's just a show, played cynically for an audience, in its lack of substance wholly amoral. Bush now is its lead star, earnestly dedicated to the proposition that the show must go on even if he isn't sure what it's really about; Vidal wants to junk the tired script and rewrite afresh.

Enter the movies. As a child and as a WWII serviceman, Vidal saw many, many movies of that fabled golden age, and they had an impact. *The Prince and the Pauper* (even then the backstage inside kid flirted with the duality that was to govern his life, one of feeling simultaneously on the outside, too), movies about tiny-island England facing down the French and the Spanish and eventually Germans, movies like *The Wizard of Oz* (although he liked the book better), movies about Lincoln and other big Americans, these were the daily sustenance of the young Vidal. Later, he wrote scripts for television and for Hollywood itself, not to mention the cineaste novels. Thus Vidal is a man who knows his movies. And as such, he is to be taken seriously when he makes the central point of *The Screening of History*: screens rule. They rule because it is on them that we see the artfully staged political show. They rule because they define, and continually redefine, our past, present, and future, and therefore who we are. Which is too bad, because they do it badly.

For instance: "The first time that the screening of history became truly fabulous was after we lost our long and pointless war in Vietnam. Its defeat, screened daily on television, was then metamorphosed into a total victory in the Rambo movies—films that not only have convinced everyone that we had somehow, thanks to Mr. Stallone, won that war, but films that made almost as much money at the world box office as we had wasted on the war itself. In the end, he who screens the history, makes the history. If I were a would-be foreign conqueror of the United States...[and] could not destroy Hollywood, I would buy it, as the *Tora! Tora! Tora!* folks just did."

And later, referring to coverage of the Persian Gulf war: "I suspect that our view of the world is now even more controlled and limited then it was for the Russian Oblomov and his coffeehouse friends. Where a Russian, under Czarist days or Communist days, could always tell when a government censors had been at work on the text of a newspaper, we have no idea at all what happened or didn't happen in those Middle Easter deserts."

Vidal does have proposals. One of them is to revamp the entire educational system to the teaching of history. This makes sense. One suspects that the authorities would never allow it, however, because if it were done right—if the truth of how we came to be what we are were truly exposed—the authorities soon would have to put down a coast-to-coast rebellion. But since that it Vidal's core message, his idea is to be applauded. Meantime there is another reason to read the printed version of *The Screening of History*, whenever it comes out (which, since it's being published by Harvard, could be a while); it may be the closest thing to a memoir as Vidal will ever get. One hopes not. One hopes it is the gestation of something larger. In any case, it is the most complete account to date of roads taken, and not taken, by a man who is, in my opinion, a genuine American hero. □



## Music

Continued from page 7

The walls come down, the faces change  
The clock moves forward, the gears engage  
The station fades from the moving train  
But love remains the same  
Roll on, roll over easy  
Hold on, just hold me to your heart

Even the songs that don't really have anything different to offer in terms of content are artfully put together with good music and beats, some fine lead guitar work by Paul Davis, and excellent singing. Fure's voice has come into its own, clear and strong, with a good range and a wonderful rich quality. "It Could Have Been Close" has forgettable lyrics, but Fure delivers them so beautifully, against an accompaniment of solo piano, that she raises the words above themselves. Other songs have similarly bland lyrics, but have good tunes and well-arranged music that is energizing to listen to. (I usually listen to review tapes while running; this album was perfect for it.)

If you haven't yet found Tret Fure interesting, take heart: *Time Turns the Moon* shows growth. I would like to see her write more songs with lyrical content worthy of her arranging and performing talents.

### Two 'must-haves'

Libana, *Fire Within* (Ladyslipper)

When a recording immediately grips the listener, it can be harder rather than easier to make coherent comments about it. So it is with Libana's latest recording and with Toshi Reagon's first album, reviewed below. While their musical styles are quite different, both seem to tap into some deeply running groundwater to produce an energy that is both new and ancient.

*Fire Within* is a recording of (mostly unaccompanied) songs of spirituality from many cultures, songs of love for the earth and her people. As music director Susan Robbins writes on the sleeve, "The difference between Libana's two apparent musical identities is growing less distinct. *Fire Within* reflects the beginning of a synthesis of our two personae into an integrated creative identity." Robbins is referring to the fact that the Libana that sings international music by women and the Libana that recorded a tape of ritual chants called *A Circle Is Cast* in 1986 are coming together.

*Fire Within* contains songs from Spain, Japan, Hawaii, Kenya, as well as Native American, Shaker, and Jewish traditions from the 14th century through the present. Particularly interesting tracks are "Kwaheri," a song from Kenya; "Lo yisa goy," a Hebrew setting of the biblical text we know as "ain't gonna study war no more;" and the Hawaiian "hula," "Kona kai opua i ka lai," sung in the language of an oppressed culture to the accompaniment of bamboo sticks. In live performance the text of this piece would be accompanied by the dancing and fluid hand signs so trivialized by the tourist industry.

This recording pares away many of the fascinating instrumental trappings with which Libana's international music is enhanced, leaving the unadorned and compelling sound of the human voice at the center of attention. Many of the songs weave complex textures by the simple technique of the round, layering repetitions of the tune more and more thickly on top of each other. Libana has staked out for their own an unusual and rich territory; *Fire Within* continues this journey.

Toshi Reagon, *Justice* (Flying Fish)

Toshi Reagon has assembled some fine musicians and a strong collection of songs for her first album (aside from a self-produced tape released in the early '80s). Doing honor to many musical traditions, she makes them all her own with excellent arrangements built around her spicy guitar playing. Given her clear statements about oppression and intolerance, it is both exciting and somewhat unbelievable to hear that she has landed a recording contract with Elektra/Warner Bros. and is due to release an album this year.

Reagon's voice is clear and flexible, with plenty of strength but no unnecessary heaviness. She turns it effectively to the service of many different styles: the declamatory chanting of "Foolish Attitudes," a sort-of sermon about bigotry against people with AIDS; a very hot rendition of Sting's "Walking in Your Footsteps;" and the simple lyricism of "Jesus Walks." Reagon wrote most of the songs, and plays guitar, bass, drums, harmonica, and is ably supported by such luminaries as vocalists Judith Casselberry and Jacque DuPree and percussionist Annette Aguilar.

Even in such a uniformly fine context, a few tracks stand out. Reagon's performance of "How Long," a song written by Bernice Reagon and often performed by Sweet Honey in the Rock, is straight-ahead blues complete with harmonica—different from

the original arrangement but unmistakably fitting. "Yonder Come Day" is an *a cappella* traditional spiritual that has the flavor of a performance by Sweet Honey—except that Reagon does all the vocals in a multi-tracked choir. And the title song is an eloquent reggae anthem about our mistreatment of the earth and its natural order, with some stellar backing vocals by Casselberry and Dupree:

Everyday you go outside  
Always complaints of things that ain't right  
Maybe it's too bright or maybe it's too wet  
You better stop crying and take what you get  
We are making war with the force  
She's got the power to change the course  
And the cool wind cries for justice  
And the cool wind cries for justice

*Justice* is an exciting and passionately committed album. We want more!

### In brief

Tracy Drach, *Another Door* (Drach 'n' Droll Music)

This is Tracy Drach's second album. She is a singer and guitar player from Durham, North Carolina, who has a bluesy voice and a way with words. Her anthemic "Who Stands For Life" is a powerful explication of what it means to be "pro-life":

I stand for the life of the unborn child of the woman who wants it  
I stand for the life of the woman who doesn't want it  
I stand for the life of the woman who cannot keep her job, cannot finish school, cannot stay at home, can't feed another child  
I stand for the life of the woman whose father is the father who cannot have the life she chose who cannot be the child she is if she were to bear a child  
Who, tell me who stands for life

We will break the laws you've made  
As we have for centuries  
Some of us will try to heal ourselves  
Some of us will die as we've always died

On the lighter side, she sings the blues about the Columbia Street Bakery:

Gonna eat bran muffins till they close this bakery down  
I ain't been nothin' but hungry since my baby ain't around  
I'm gonna mix red zinger with my ginseng tea  
I'm probably gonna gain 'bout 20 pounds  
Since my baby made a fool out of me  
I got the Columbia Street Bakery lost my baby blues  
With all these fine baked goods, who needs booze

And she offers a creditable rendition of "Miriam" by Laura Berkson. Elsewhere on the album she seems to be pondering the ins and outs of breaking up. Drach offers folk, guitar-based music and lyrics with many fine turns of phrase.

Jaime Morton, *Animals are Moving* (Straight Arrow Music)

This is an interesting and somewhat uneven debut album by a singer-songwriter from Vermont. She plays a strong guitar and for the most part writes interesting lyrics. Morton also seems to have two voices: one lyrical, clear and simply sung, and the other heavier, blues-inspired, and sometimes tense and throaty. The former voice comes into its own on songs like "Golden," with the addition of a harmony vocal by Keith Greeninger. The sound is pleasantly reminiscent of the ballads Linda Ronstadt sang with J.D. Souther in the '70s.

Morton's lyrics are sometimes ordinary or clichéd, and sometimes strikingly artful and original. Sometimes they're both in the same song, as in "Inside My Bones":

Some say that I was broken up  
And some say that might be true  
Some say I had an emotional emergency  
And some say I was in love with you...

Some think your ears were open ears  
To my midnight hour sounds  
Some think your heart must have been an open heart  
After you sweetly salted my skin down...

Most interesting is "Pulse of My Dream":

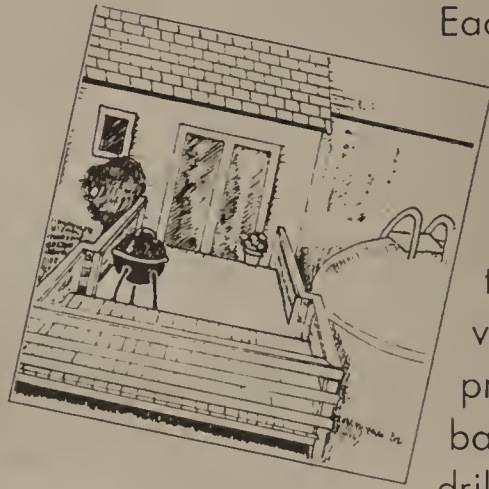
She wrote a book of poetry  
I read it in the midday sun  
and when evening came to call on me  
I had been changed by what I'd done  
It's the strangest kind of thing  
to think I know a woman's ways  
I dream that love has colors now  
I think hers is forest green...  
Crazy little thing  
I can't find a way to say  
that my heart became a magnet  
to the words I read today  
another woman's thoughts  
another woman's ways  
and my body formed a garden  
for the seeds I sowed today

Keep your ears open, Jaime Morton has the makings of something unusual.

Laurie Lewis and Grant Street, *Singin' My Troubles Away* (Flying Fish)

Here's the inimitable Laurie Lewis, good singer and fiddler extraordinaire, performing with her bluegrass band. The material is pretty standard, a mixture of traditional tunes and original compositions, and the performances are lively and fresh. It's a pleasant listen. □

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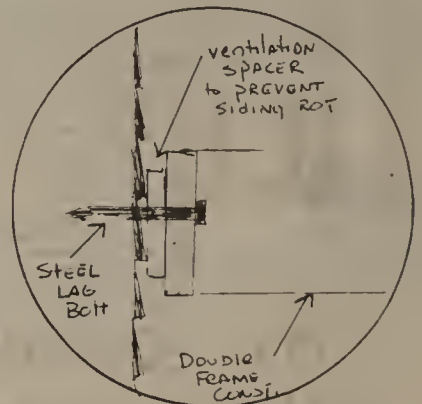
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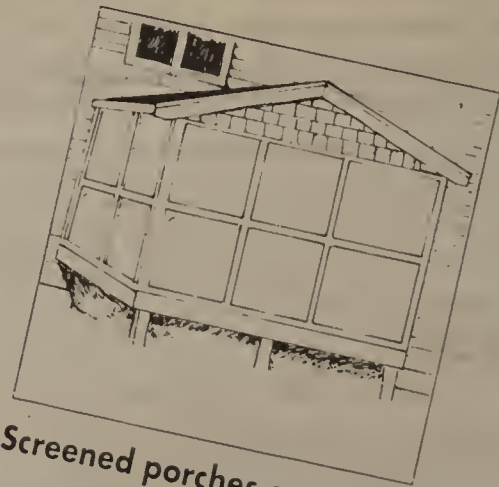
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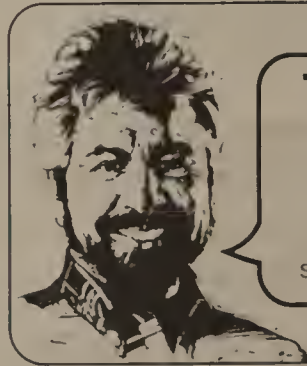
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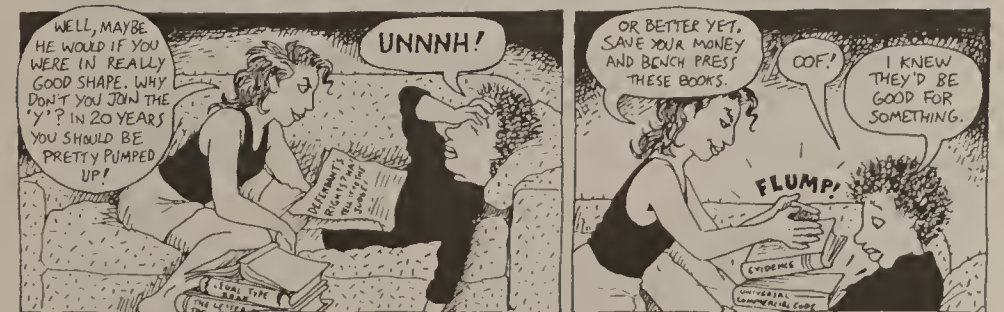
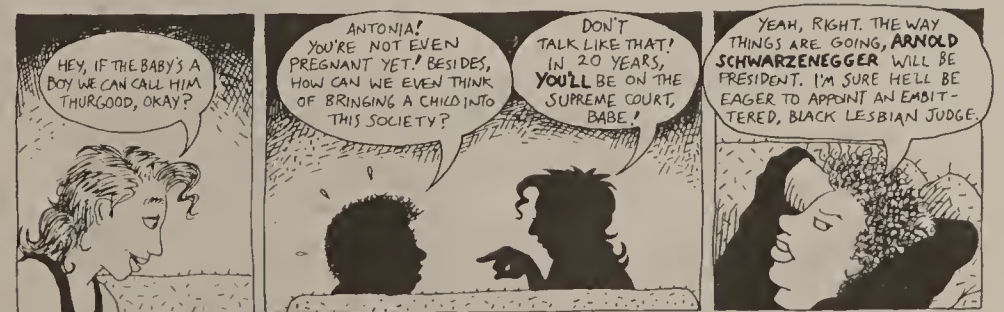
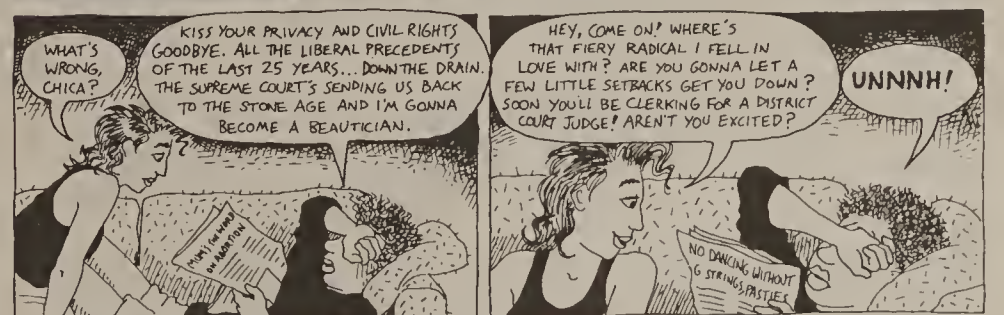
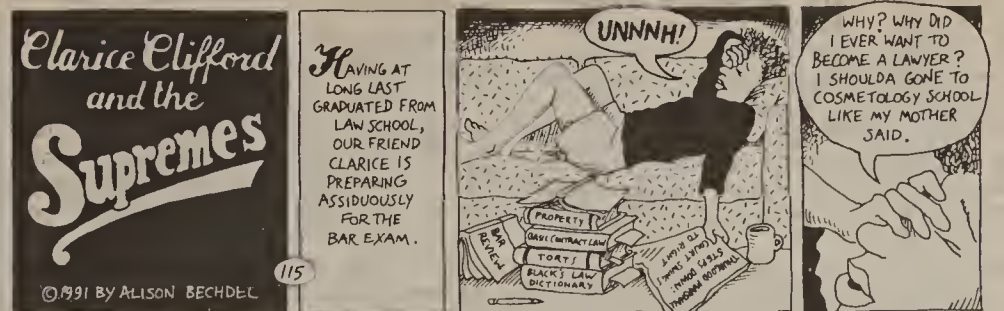
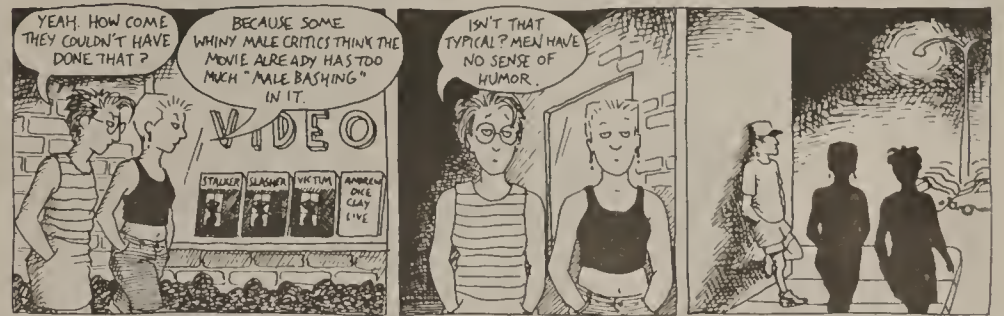
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# Dykes to watch out for



## Gay and Lesbian Help Line

617-267-9001 tty/voice

4 - 11 PM Monday - Friday and 6 - 11 PM Sunday

information • support • referrals • crisis intervention  
for the gay, lesbian and bisexual community

The Gay & Lesbian Helpline is a program of the Fenway Community Health Center

## SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

### HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

### INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers)!
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

### RESOURCE NUMBERS

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514  
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331  
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248  
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655  
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076  
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376



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## PERSONALS

### GCN REPLY BOXES

Replies to *GCN* Boxes should be addressed to *GCN* Box#, *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. This applies to *GCN* Boxes only, not to P.O. Boxes. Mail may be addressed to *GCN* boxes for weeks after the issue in which it appears. Check carefully to be sure you have the correct box number!

I've spent all summer looking for a new car and a new boyfriend...in both cases, I have yet to find something with options I like that I can afford. Can you help? I'm looking for something with safety features—a sense of who you are, what you want, maybe an air bag? In addition I need an ability to negotiate turns in life's road well, yet still be a fun ride. Write, and we'll arrange a test drive. *GCN* Box CAR (8)

### PENCIL DICKS!

Big fat cocks are way too much for my butt; long and thin is in (me). If you've above average length and average girth I've got the rubbers and lube. Write *GCN* Box 800, photos/phones answered first. (3)

### BEAR PAIR

Beards, leather, t-shirts, tight denim shorts, boots and I believe I saw a tattoo or two. You guys stared at me at Copley Place Sbarro. I was too nervous to smile and swallow ziti simultaneously. Please get in touch with me. *GCN* 358. (4)

### VIDEO EXCHANGE

30 year old GM would-be smut auteur wants to trade with other video piggies. Have solo tapes right how to exchange; also looking for Boston-area exhibitionists to show off for my lens. *GCN* Box 801.

### 18 YEAR-OLD NEEDS HELP

18 year old queer (newspaper) in bad financial shape needs your help. Please send as much \$ as you can to *GCN* Donations Dept, 62 Berkeley St. Boston, Mass. 02116

## ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE

1-900-740-6600

Private mailboxes \$1.39

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUBMISSIONS WANTED

New journal exploring gay and lesbian sensibility seeks submission of poetry, fiction, essays, B&W artwork and photography. What is gay sensibility? You tell us. Lesbians, people of color, PWAs, sexual explorers especially encouraged. Send with SASE to Invert, P.O. Box 370645, West Hartford, CT 06107. Sample copy for \$6.50. Checks payable to Alternatives, Inc. (6)

### PRISONERS WANTED

Writing an anthology of male sex in prison. To participate in survey, write Ricardo, 4417 SW 66th Ter, Davie, FL 33314. (7)

### CATS/DOGS LOW COST SPAYING

Low cost spaying and neutering for cats and dogs. For those who cannot afford regular vet fees. Performed by licensed vets in their own clinics. For application call 899-8523. (6)

### MEN'S GROUP PARTICIPANTS

If you are a bisexual or gay man who has attended a men's gathering (Bly, Meade, Fairie Circle, etc.) I would like to talk to you about an article I'm writing. Please call me at (617) 666-5862. (7)

Radio/Cable for/about us. Send \$1 & SASE for program list to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. NW, Washington, DC 20009-4510

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Foundation for Children with AIDS is seeking volunteers to commit to 3 hrs. per month. For more info, please call Loretta at 625-2121.

### CHER SOCIETY

Since 1964 Cher has enlivened our lives and now we enliven hers! A club to share Cher! PO Box 770255 New Orleans, LA 70117 (V. 19 N8)

### CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Female Doctoral researcher conducting interviews about relationships of women who in the past have sexually abused children. For info. (617) 266-8800 ext. 210 (after 5 PM answering machine in private office.) (19,9)

### HELP OVERTURN THE GAG RULE

send a message to congress to overturn the gag rule. Call 1-800-325-6000, ask for Western Union hotline #9888. A letter will be sent to targeted lawmakers in your name and your phone number will be billed \$5.45. Call 1-800-325-6000 and ask for Western Union Hotline #9888. Sponsored by Fund for the Feminist Majority, Arlington, VA.

## LESBIAN/BISEXUAL WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

We are a group of lesbian/bisexual women who are organizing a conference for the fall entitled "Lesbians in the AIDS Crisis: Honoring Our Lives and Our Work." We are seeking women who are living with HIV who would like to share their stories with other women at this conference. If you are interested, please call: Deb 1-800-285-8880 or Sally (401) 863-1987 collect, or Write to: Lesbian AIDS Task Force, P.O. Box 23331, Weybossett Hill Station, Providence, RI 02903

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## FOR SALE

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max. 30 characters

### FLAMER

max. 20 characters

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Attach extra sheets as needed; each word after 25 words is 25¢, business ads 35¢

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☐ PERSONALS

☐ ANNOUNCEMENTS

☐ HELP WANTED

☐ HOUSING WANTED

☐ ROOMMATE WANTED

☐ APARTMENTS

☐ SUMMER RENTALS

☐ MASSAGE

☐ FOR SALE

☐ PUBLICATIONS

☐ ORGANIZATIONS

☐ SERVICES

☐ RIDES

☐ MOVERS

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Deadline for Classifieds is Friday at 3 p.m. for the next Friday's edition. All ads must be prepaid.

No ads accepted over the telephone. Please clip and return this ad form to

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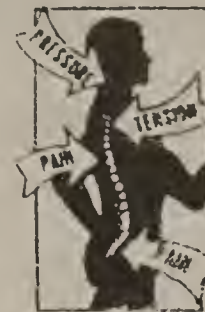
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## HELP WANTED

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for young disabled lesbian. Light housekeeping and car required. 10-12 hrs/week. Flexible please call 935-7672. (9)

**PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT**  
...for disabled woman. Mon-Fri. morning & evening hours; or Sat & Sun morning hours. Dependable, care preferred, will train. Jamaica Plain. 524-3511. (6)

Personal care attendant for dynamic disabled lesbian art therapist. Wed. 8 a.m. through Fri. 8 a.m. \$200/wk clear. Must be able to lift, drive and not smoke on shift. Must be a light sleeper and be able to make at least one year commitment. Will train. 524-0921 (7)

## APARTMENTS

### CAMBRIDGE

3-bedroom apartment available September 1st in 3-family Victorian house near Harvard Square. Fireplace, hardwood floor, off-street parking. \$1800/month plus utilities. Call Jeffery, 661-3859; leave message. (7)

### MEDFORD

1 BR liv/din mod kitchen w/DW W/W plus more. Pkg handicap acc. Near T. Own/oc. Avail. 9/1. \$700 +util. 396-8122 (6)

4-bedroom apartment available September 1st in 3-family Victorian house near Harvard Square. Off-street parking included. \$1400/month plus utilities. Call Jeffery, 661-3859, leave message. (6)

### 2 GREAT APTS

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Beautiful, quiet one bedroom apt. on third floor with deck in Jamaica Plain. Lesbian owned \$600/month plus utilities. (6)

Spacious 2 BR apt avail 9/1 in Somerville, Prospect Hill, DR, LR w/ fireplace, hdwd floors, porch, parking, quiet street, \$775 + util. 625-5986. (7)



## ROOMMATES

### TRY GCN'S GUARANTEED ROOMMATE AD

All roommate and housemate ads that are prepaid for two weeks we will run until you find a roommate.

Ads are *not* automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls for renewals will be accepted on Fridays until 3 pm. 426-4469.

#### CHEAP LIVING IN JP!

Two lezzies with a cat and a kitten seek third dyke to join our sunny, easygoing, veggie household. Right around the corner from Stoneybrook T. Looking for responsible, relaxed, political, communicative type. \$216.66 plus utilities. Call 524-2952.

#### FIELD CORNER-DORCHESTER

Deaf lesbian, deaf GM, and 3 hearing cats seek 3rd and 4th responsible housemates. We—EZ household, sense of humor, friendly, very near red T and ships. \$211.67 + 1/4 utils and \$226.66 + 1/4 utils. Avail. 9/1. Dial relay service first: 1-800-434-2370, then ask for Robin 524-6356 (tty only). (6)

#### SPACIOUS, SUNNY HOME

to share with GM, 37, in Melville-Park area. 12X14 bedroom plus share LR, DR, porch & laundry. Parking, hardwood floors, well-furnished. \$425 and 1/2 utils. 825-6842 (7)

#### BOSTON APT. NEAR AUDITORIUM

GM 28 seeks 3 roommates (24+) to share apartment. Heat/hot water included. Washer/dryer in basement. Available September 1st. \$325 a month and util. Call 267-5906. (4)

Jamaica Plain, 2 LF seek 2 LF/GM 25+ beautiful large 4 bedroom apt. Lots of common space, porch near T. No cigs, drugs \$265, \$278 524-7304. (7)

#### JAMAICA PLAIN SING. FAM. HOUSE

2 Ls seek 2 Ls. 1 1/2 baths. Off-street parking. Front porch. Barn in back, great for artists! 5 mins. to pond, 10 mins. to T. Av. 8/1—9/1. \$300+. 522-8235. (8)

GWM, 55, seeks GWM to share spacious 2 bedroom apt. Quincy, parking available. \$350 month. Serious replies only. Call after 7 pm—472-0739. Close to Mass Trans—highways. (7)

#### NEWTON, OFF RT. 9

1 LF seeks 2 LF 25+, no smoking, no pets, parking, quiet and safe, 15 min. walk from T, W/D, \$220+ utilities, call Linda 964-1729. (6)

#### GREAT HOUSE IN JP

3 slightly exotic women (2 Ls) seek 4th woman. No pets, no smoking. \$270+ util. Sept. 1/Oct. 1. 522-7466. (6)

#### FULL OR PART-TIME FOR SEPT. 1

LF, 31, seeks responsible roommate with a sense of humor for Cambridgeport apt. Have pets, others negotiable. No smoke. \$400 month plus utilities/full-time. 547-4828. (7)

#### ALLSTON

5 LF looking for one more to share sober, semi-coop household. Lots of space, HW floors, porch, garden. Near T, bus, Boston Food Coop. \$230+. 254-0448. (6)

#### PART TIME ROOMMATE FOR JP APT

LF with great JP apartment seeks part-time roommate. Sunny, 3rd floor, porch, 2 minutes to Arboretum. Good for commuting for school/work. \$225/mo/will negotiate. 522-2240. (6)

#### EAST ARLINGTON—WALK TO T

2 lesbians plus cat seek lesbian 25+ to share our home. Good communication, sense of humor, open to racial diversity. No smoke, drugs, minimum alcohol. Beautiful, spacious apartment. 4366+, 643-2426. (6)

GCN needs volunteers to do lots of things. Don't miss this chance to help out your favorite weekly. Call 426-4469 for more details.

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## PUBLICATIONS

#### OFF OUR BACKS

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#### WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181.(ex)

#### LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50/sub. \$6 more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

## GAYELLOW PAGES

Accommodations, AIDS/HIV resources, bars, bookstores, various businesses, health care, legal services, organizations, publications, religious groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, & much more, for gay women and men.

All prices below INCLUDE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE to USA, Canada & Mexico, in sealed, discreet envelopes. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

Orders from outside USA (including Canada & Mexico): payment must be in US Funds payable on a US bank, or by Post Office or American Express money order. (We suggest you try a local bookstore first, to avoid possible Customs problems!)

US/CANADA: Canada and USA for women & men. City by city information for all US States, Canadian Provinces, and the US Virgin Islands, plus nationwide resources including headquarters of national organizations and caucuses; publications; mail order companies, etc. \$12.00; outside N. America \$17 (airmail) NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY: NY & NJ, separate Women's Section; Manhattan bar notes by Jerry Fitzpatrick \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail)

SOUTHERN/Southern Midwest: 64 pages. AL, AZ, AR, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MS, MO, NM, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX, US Virgin Islands, VA \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail) NORTHEAST: CT, DE, DC, ME, MA, NH, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV \$5.00; outside N. America \$8 (airmail) RENAISSANCE HOUSE, BOX 292-GCN VILLAGE STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10014-0292 (212) 674-0120



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## PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

#### PRISONERS' LEGAL NEWS

PLN is an anti-authoritarian magazine by and for prisoners. 127 House is now accepting contributions to a benefit tape for PLN. Send your type-2 cassette with all appropriate band and copyright information to 127 House. A booklet on prisoner support groups in North America will accompany the tape, so if you are involved in prisoner support please write and describe your abilities and goals. Send all contributions by 1 September 1991 to: 127 House, PO Box 11481, Knoxville, Tennessee 37939-1481.

As you can see, we're in a financial crisis and would appreciate it if you do a little more sharing of GCNs, rather than each prisoner asking for his/her own copy. Please. (Thanks!)

I am 6' tall and weigh 219 # with no fat! I am a BM and like pumping Iron and writing pen-pals. Anthony Sanders 99750, Camp C Jaguar 3-L-9, La. State Prison, Angola, LA 70712.

I need a friend. BM, 5'11" 170#. I believe in God and Love. Looking for true Love. Ronald Freeman 164967, PO Box 56, Lebanon, OH 45036.

I am a lonely person in prison. Robert E. Love 82294, Camp-J-G-4-R-J, La. State Prison, Angola, LA 70712.

I am a Black Male, 5'10", 165#, looking for a gay friend or lover. Tony Cleveland 166776, PO Box 97, McAlester, OK 74502-0097.

GWM, very fem, considering the Change, and like masculine Black men. Keith De Blasio 41743-004, FPC-Talladega, Dorm 3, 501E. Renfroe Rd, Talladega, AL 35160.

30 year old, 5'6", 145#, straight appearing seeks friendship. Parole 3/92. George Cahoon, 1 Administration Rd, Bridgewater, MA 02324.

Mid-20s, boyish, seeks close friend. Robby Crouse D-12284, PO Box 29, Represa, CA 95671.

6' 2", 179#, blonde with blue-green eyes looking for friendship, more? Can't write CA prisoners. Tom H. Gandy D-34332, 480 Alta Rd. F3-14-232, San Diego, CA 92179.

Sincere friendship desired. Samuel Sapp 079472, HCI, Rt. 2, Box-12-A, Immokalee, FL 33934-9747.

23 years old, brown hair, blue eyes, Like sex, writing, chess, desires 18-26 year old, will answer all serious letters. Darrin Bowen R143-954, PO Box 788, Mansfield, OH 44901.

Vegetarian, Ecology minded, 22 years old, 5'9". Eric Nelson 892448, H-2-6-A, PO Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064.

## VACATIONS

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### "TO ALL THOSE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE"

Alexander Berkman,

*Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

Women Seeking Friends



Diamond, I have been waiting for a letter from you, but I think I know what happened. I sent a couple of letters, I hope they reached you. No matter what happens, don't give up—it will work out. I love you. Baby-girl.

Really not sure if this prison will let in any gay literature but I decided to at least write and maybe get lucky and find a friend out there who would like to write me here and possibly build a lasting relationship. Kelley Lardner, 45227(153), AZ State Prison-Kaibab, 2100 S. Highway 87, Winslow, AZ, 86047-9790. \* \* \*

I'm looking for tops, into everything except pain. Jamie Perry 106209, Box 260, LCC, Lexington, OK 73051.

Searching for long term relationship. No drugs. Prisoners OK. Paul Decker 185-353, 11781 State Rt 762, Orient, OH 43146.

Serious, caring and affectionate seeks real friend/lover. No Prisoners. Reginald Williams 94891, Camp J, Cuda 3-L-9, La. State Prison, Angola, LA 70712.

19 years old, 5'10", 160#, blonde with green eyes desires caring and stable friend. James M. Hodge 806311, Box B, Anamosa, IA 52205.

Bi looking for gay or lesbian friend. Please write. Roger Luke 873097, WCC, PO Box 473-5 Dorm, Westville, IN 46391-0473.

47 year old with 3 kids can write to other prisoners. Steve Freeman, Box 1000 Unit 1-A, AVCF, Crowley, CO 81034.

I'm in a lock-down unit, Michael Anderson D-54408, PO Box 7500, C-6-cell 210, PBSP-SHU, Crescent City, CA 95532-7500

21 years old, 5'6", 150#, desires non-prisoners. Barry Murray C#78542, PO Box 2000 S-205, Vacaville, CA 95696.

I have a lot I would like to share with someone. James Spencer, DOC 92192, Camp-J-Gar-2-R-8, La State Prison, Angola, LA 70712.

30 year old, 5'9", 172# wants to write other prisoners, esp. gay/lesbian. Joseph Davis F-573078, W-18-L, WCI, PO Box 1386, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433.

5'9", 155#, Blonde with blue eyes seeks handsome man. Mark "Dee" Diedrick 806963A-12, Box B, Anamosa, IA 52205.

30 year old Italian likes good music, books, people. Craig P. Fornaro 557754-Eastham, PO Box 16, Lovelady, TX 75851.

Bi, 39, stocky looking for TS/TV. I'm out in 9 mos. Frank Roark 97623, NTC, PO Box 479 D-6 LR, Burgin, KY 40310.



# Calendar

**23 Friday, Boston ♦ Screening of *Jollies* as the Boston Lesbian and Gay Film Festival continues. *Jollies*, taped on a Fisher-Price Pixelvision camera by Sadie Benning at age 17, blends personal experiences with experiments in narrative composition. The ICA, 955 Boylston St. 7:30 PM. For more info (617) 266-5152**

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Listings may also be sent electronically by the Tuesday before the week of the event at the following addresses: via AT&T Mail, Inaleks; via the Internet, naleks @ ettmall.com; via X.400, c = us / admd = attmail / pns = / given name = norm / surname = aleks / dda (ld) = naleks. No phone calls, please.

Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission.

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

## 17 SATURDAY

Acton/Chelmsford ♦ Bicycling Lesbians Around Boston. Info: Glulla 354-2853.

Dorchester / Dorchester GALA goes to P'Town. Info: Barbara 288-2962 or Barry 288-1847.

Randolph ♦ All-Day Poolside Chill Cookoff and Evening Country Western Dance. Randolph Country Club. Info: call AAC 437-6200 x333.

Waltham ♦ Way Out In Waltham Goes to Crane's Beach. 9 a.m. 893-0361 or 893-0742.

Jamaica Plain ♦ "Once Upon Our Time": Multicultural Story Hour for Children (3-8) of G/L Parents and Friends. Third Saturday each month. J.P. Library, 12 Sedgwick St. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Limited space. Sign up: Marlan or Jennifer 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Prime Timers Monthly Mtg.: "A Patrol Officer's Coming Out," with policeman Robert Johnson. Older gay men. 2 to 4 p.m. Lindemann Health Ctr., 25 Stanford St. Refreshments, socializing. \$1. Info: Prime Timers, POB 18-0010, Boston 02118-0010.

Cambridge ♦ National Leather Ass'n, New England Chapter. Monthly mtg. 5 to 7 p.m. Paradise Cafe, 180 Mass. Ave.

Boston ♦ BAGLY 11th Anniversary Party. 7 p.m. to midnight. Dorothy Quincy Ste., Old John Hancock Bldg., 180 Berkeley St. \$5. People age 22 and under, their guests, BAGLY alumni. (800) 42-BAGLY x3006.

Boston ♦ Lesbian Fun and Games. Smoke and alcohol-free. 338 Newbury St. 7 to 10 p.m. Third Saturday each month. \$2 donation.

## 18 SUNDAY

Watertown ♦ GLOW / WOW / MetroWest GALA Picnic. Starts at noon, ends when it ends. On the bank of the Charles near the intersection of Charles River Rd. and N. Beacon St. Bring a beverage and a dish to share, and a grill or something to barbecue, if you like. More info: Becky 395-4664.

Boston ♦ Queer Wedding. "The loving marriage of hundreds of your queer sisters and brothers." On the steps of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Washington St., South End. 2 p.m. Queer Nation. Super-glam reception to follow. Dress: wedding drag. 577-8123.

SE Mass ♦ SMUUGLe: S.E. Mass Unitarian Universalist G/L/etc. Third Sunday each month in various south-of-Boston locs. 344-7030.

Boston ♦ Joint Reading by Local Contributors (Including *GCN's* Wickie Stamps) to "Certain Voices" and "Dykescapes." Alyson Publications's gay male and lesbian short story anthologies. 7 p.m. Glad Day Bookstore, 673 Boylston St., across from Copley Library. 542-5679.

Boston ♦ Center Night at Ckl. 15 Landsdowne St. Raffle w/ prizes to benefit Boston L/G/B Center.

## 19 MONDAY

Provincetown ♦ Judith McDaniel signs "Just Say Yes." 4 p.m. Now Voyager, 357 Commercial St. (508) 487-0848.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Partners and Ex-Partners of Incest Survivors. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Hanover, NH ♦ Panelmaking Workshops for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. First and third Mondays each month. Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. 7 p.m. Info: Thom (603) 632-4145.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation / Boston. Community Church of Boston, Copley Square above Back Bay Bistro. 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays each month. Info: 577-8123.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Talking About Sex." 7:30 to 9 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ General Mtg., Boston Co-Ed Bisexual Network. 8 to 10 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St. 247-6683..

## 20 TUESDAY

Framingham ♦ Framingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

Boston ♦ Support group for lesbian and single women interested or involved in alternative insemination. Today: women who have inseminated 9+ times. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Second flr. cont. rm., FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: Jennifer Firestone 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Lesbians And

Their Mothers." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Transsexualism." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Non-Traditional Parenting" with Cindy Rizzo. First and third Tuesday each month. Lindemann Center, 2nd fl. 8 to 10 p.m. Info 742-7897.

## 21 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. 7 p.m. NOW Office, 971 Comm. Ave. 782-1056.

Cambridge ♦ Cambridge Lavender Alliance General Mtg. 7 to 9 p.m. Cambridge Ridge & Latin School Media Cafeteria. 876-3874 or 868-1693.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to g/l/b youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

## 22 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Client Services Orientation: services AAC provides to HIV+ people. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., AAC room 401, 131 Clarendon St. Sign up: 437-6200 x328.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for L/G Civil Rights. Meets every other Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: David 828-3039.

Boston ♦ "Introduction to Zen Meditation." FCHC, 7 Haviland St. 7 to 9 p.m. FCHC Living Well Series. 267-0900 x287.

Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: Staying Healthy. Fourth Thursday each month. 7 to 9 p.m. BLC, 140 Clarendon St. 7th floor. Info: Rob 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Am Tikva Picnics and Listens to Music at the Hatch Shell. L/G Jews. 7:15 p.m. Look for blue balloons. Bring something dairy / veggie to share. 926-2536.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Peace Brigade: Jewish Women Speak Out on Israel and Palestine. 7:30 p.m. Croness' Harvest, 761 Centre St. 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ "Two Nice Girls" in concert. 8 and 10 p.m. \$10 via Ticketmaster and at 931-2000. Indigo / Nightstage, 823 Main St. 497-7200. Sing along! "I Spent My Last \$10 on Birth Control and Beer."

## 23 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Boston Professional Ass'n Sunset Harbor Cruise. "Virginia C II," departing from Northern Pier. 6:30 p.m. \$15. Proceeds benefit FCHC Victim Recovery Pgm. BPA, POB 1323, Boston 02117-1323.

Boston ♦ Friday Night Video Series at the Center: "Dona Herlinda and Her Son." 7 p.m. \$2 suggested. 338 Newbury St. 2nd flr, 247-2927.

Boston ♦ T.G.I.F. Boston Professional Ass'n meets at Club Cafe Moonshine (back bar) for casual cocktails and mixing. Last Friday each month (it's one week early this month). 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$3.

## 24 SATURDAY

Plymouth ♦ Third Annual AIDS Cut-A-Thon. To benefit S. Shore AIDS Project. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hair Trends, 84 Court St. Haircut or styling for donation of \$15. (508) 559-1174.

Watertown ♦ Lesbian Tennis. Sponsored by DOB. 9 a.m. Behind Marshalls, Arsenal Mall, Arsenal St. 628-1038.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Couples Group: "Here Come the ... Brides?": Telling The World About Our Commitments." 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Beverly ♦ North Shore G/L Alliance Annual Full-Moon Boat Cruise and Potluck. 8 to 12 p.m. Meet 7:15 p.m. at New England Charters, Desmond's Yacht Yard (behind Beverly Depot on Rantoul St.). Space limited; reservations required by 8/10. Send \$25 to "Cruise," NSGLA, P.O.Box 806, Marblehead 01945. (508) 745-3848.

Shrewsbury ♦ The Floating Dancefloor: A Smoke-Free Dance for Women. Dancing to DeeJay Jean. 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free coffee and snacks; cash bar. \$4. LWVO Club, 206 S. Quinsigamond Ave. E-Z Directions: (508) 791-1327.

Boston ♦ Slow Dancing at the Center. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., fourth Saturday each month. Slow dancing lesson 10:30 p.m. by Jason Thomas. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

## 25 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting. (AMALGM = Assoc. of Mass. Asian L/GM.) Last Sunday each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.

## 26 MONDAY

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Share Your Talent." Bring poems, songs, stories, etc. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 27 TUESDAY

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Codependency." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Buddy Program Orientation, AIDS ACTION Committee. Volunteers needed to provide emotional and practical support to AAC clients on a one-to-one basis. Orientation mtg. the fourth



Tuesday each month. Minimum age requirement is 24. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 7:30 p.m. Info: 437-6200x450.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rep: "Sexual Abuse." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 28 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## 29 THURSDAY

Dorchester ♦ Dorchester GALA Licking, Sticking, Stuffing Party. Gelger Gibson Health Ctr., 250 Mt. Vernon St. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: Hotline 825-3737 or Barry 288-1847.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Open Mic with Betsy Salkind. Open to comediennes and folk singers. 7:30 p.m. Croness' Harvest, 761 Centre St. Call to sign up. 983-9530.

## 30 FRIDAY

Hardwick ♦ 111th Annual Northeast Women's Musical Retreat. 8/30 to 9/2. Many interesting acts. Info: (203) 468-8505, or SASE to NEWMR, POB 217, New Haven, CT 06513.

Boston ♦ Friday Night Video Series at the Center: "All About Eve." 7 p.m. \$2 suggested. 338 Newbury St. 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Liturgy for All Those Affected by AIDS. Simple reception to follow. Paulist Center, 5 Park St. 7 p.m. 742-4460.

## SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime — Boston G/L TV, with Cynthia Pape. 7:30 p.m. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and on other systems; check your listings.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 p.m. Croness' Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

## SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15 at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 8 p.m.; volleyball 6 p.m. 'til dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Provincetown ♦ Christian Healing Service. 5:30 p.m. 96 Bradford St. (P'Town AIDS Support Grp.). Pot luck dinner to follow. (508) 487-3866.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30 a.m.

## MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Children Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWAs and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge

CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other areas: check listings.

## TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People" — with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

## WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian AI-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413) 788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support grp. for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Bridgewater ♦ S. Shore G/L Alliance. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bridgewater Ctr. Primarily a social group of age 25+, but all welcome. Info: Glen 293-5183 or Dave 294-0367.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

## THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Cambridge ♦ Drop In at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 734-2076.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Grtr Bos. rink. Info: John 350-6063, AI 522-1408.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT = Gays at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, room 50-306, 142 Memorial Dr.

## FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Friday Night At The Movies. Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m. 236-1012.

Boston ♦ Body Electric. Healing w/sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. \$12. 522-9164.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.



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## The Seventh Annual Boston International GAY AND LESBIAN FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL



My Father is Coming

**August 1991 at The ICA, 955 Boylston St., Boston.**  
For more information call The ICA (617) 266-5152

Saturday 24  
**My Father is Coming**  
Monika Treut  
Germany / USA, 1990, 35mm, 82 min.

**My Father is Coming** is a humorous tale of two lesbian lovers, one German, the other American, living in Manhattan. Unexpectedly, one of the women is faced with the arrival of her father. A futile attempt is made to present dad with a heterosexual relationship by casting her gay male friend in the role of her significant other.

Sneak Preview

Sunday 25 - Monday, 26  
The  
Gr  
USA

The  
and  
Rider  
N.Y.  
Road  
Bost

**The Living End  
CANCELLED !  
Replaced by  
No Skin Off My Ass.  
directed by Bruce La Bruce  
shown with The Gay  
Dating Game produced  
by Tommie Saeki. 7:30pm.**

Tuesday, 27 - Thursday 29  
**Strip Jack Naked**  
Ron Peck  
United Kingdom, 1991, 16mm, 91 min.

Director Ron Peck's brilliant follow-up to his groundbreaking *Nighthawks* is a gritty semi-autobiographical look at London's sexual nightlife.

Boston premiere

Friday, 30 - Saturday, 31  
Evenings  
Rudolph van der Berg  
The Netherlands, 1990, 35mm, 120 min.

The Dutch Academy Award entry for Best Foreign Film of 1990 reunites both the author and the actor in a worthy companion piece to the gay film classic *The Fourth Man*. A riveting exploration of the hero's emerging homosexuality.

Boston premiere



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